MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 FEBRUARY 1982

Syria

Although Damascus radio rebroadcast its 21 February statement that Hamah was quiet, Monte Carlo radio reported that the Syrian press had admitted that fierce battles were still raging in the city between security forces and the Muslim Brotherhood. AFP likewise noted that TISHRIN spoke of attempts to prolong the "riot" in Hamah. While Amman radio said Damascus radio had admitted that fighting was still continuing in Hamah, monitored reports by Damascus radio made no such admission. Meanwhile, Baghdad's Voice of Arab Syria radio said fierce clashes were continuing in Hamah with the mujahidin remaining in control of most of the city's suburbs for the 21st consecutive day. The radio also reported clashes in Homs Province township of Al-Qaryatayn.

Damascus radio and television gave extensive coverage to cables of support for President Hafiz al-Asad from politicians and clergymen in Hamah. The radio carried the text of a cable from the city's Ba'th Party branch, which said the Muslim Brotherhood's conspiracy in Hamah began in the early hours of 3 February when conspirators fired from mosques and streets at the homes of citizens and anyone they came across on the streets, annihilating entire families, including those who would not open their doors so their houses could be used as rebel hideouts. The rebels pounded on Ba'th Party members while they were still in bed, killing them and their families. The Ba'thists were compelled to defend themselves, the cable went on, and taught the murderers and their sympathisers a lesson that "silenced them forever." The radio broadcast a similar, though less detailed, message from the Hamah Province local administration. Damascus television broadcast a cable signed by two shaykhs on behalf of Hamah clergymen that also condemned the Muslim Brotherhood, accusing the rebels of hiding under the cover of religion and branding them as "apostates, traitors and agents." Deploring their barbaric criminal acts which have "brought woe" to innocent citizens who refused to cooperate with the rebels, the cable said those who kill children, elders, women and the innocent in the name of religion are not Muslims.

Lebanon

Kuwaiti Aid -- KUNA reported that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived in Kuwait on 23 February for talks with Kuwaiti leaders that will include financial aid to Lebanon. Earlier, another KUNA report noted that the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee rejected a Kuwaiti Government bill allocating $48 million to finance the Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) in Lebanon because of current events in Syria and the Syrian stance on the Iran-Iraq war.

Security Situation -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with ADF, Palestinian and Lebanese officials in Tripoli to discuss ways to restore normal life in the city. The radio said the situation in Tripoli improved after joint security forces began patrolling the scenes of recent clashes. According to AFP, the violence left 20 dead and more than 70 wounded. Voice of Lebanon radio said leaflets were distributed in the city calling for jihad against the Syrian regime, which has meanwhile reinforced ADF positions in Tripoli and the Al-Biqa' Valley.

On the situation in south Lebanon, the Voice of Palestine said the IDF has established 175-mm heavy artillery batteries overlooking the coastal city of Tyre.

Israel

Begin Remarks -- Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin said in an interview with a Columbian television station that Israel will react immediately if an Israeli is killed in a terrorist action. Regarding possible U.S. plans to sell sophisticated weapons to Jordan, Begin said: "It appears that they have kicked us in a place I cannot describe exactly, but it is a long way from the head."

Golan Strike -- According to DAVAR, the Defense Ministry intends to take a tough line toward Druze strikers in the Golan Heights, cutting off electricity and water supplies to the villages within the next few days unless the strike ends at once.

Egypt

'Ali on Foreign Policy -- MENA transmitted the text of Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali's statement to the People's Assembly in which he reviewed Egypt's recent foreign policy course. 'Ali said that while welcoming a studied and logical restoration of relations with its Arab sister states, Egypt will not accept the imposition of any conditions or amend its policy to achieve such a restoration of relations. However, he continued, if there is currently a disagreement between Egypt and some Arab states, this is a disagreement that will inevitably disappear so that Egypt will return to its inevitable place in the Arab world without changing its policy on peace. Regarding Egypt's relations with Israel, 'Ali noted that the Egyptian-Israeli joint military committee had begun talks in Cairo the previous day on the demarcation of the future border, which is still subject to dispute. He also informed the assembly that Egyptian technical teams will shortly go to southern Sinai to prepare for the Israeli withdrawal.

Shamir Visit -- MENA reported that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir arrived in Cairo where he was welcomed by Foreign Minister 'Ali. According to Jerusalem radio, Shamir has drawn up a long list of agreements on normalization affairs that have not yet materialized. Although Shamir is scheduled to meet with President Husni Mubarak on 25 February, the radio said, the meeting may not take place if Mubarak is still ill. Another Jerusalem radio report said Shamir will seek to finalize the date of Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Israel.

Iran

Khomeyni Speech, Activities -- In a speech to top officials broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni indicated that foreign radio reports that he was dying had made him laugh. Khomeyni called on Iranian exiles to give up their struggle against the Islamic republic since they know they cannot make any headway. They should cooperate with the government rather than organize against it, he said. Khomeyni complimented the armed forces on recent successes and emphasized the importance of a speedy implementation of the amnesty for prisoners. He expressed hope that an impressive number of prisoners will be released by the Islamic New Year, which begins on 21 March.

Tehran radio reported that Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was among the officials who met with Khomeyni, said afterward that Khomeyni issued a decree that solves problems caused by the Council of Guardians' failure to approve a Majlis bill on preventing profiteering and speculation in urban real state. Asserting that Khomeyni recognized the urgency of the matter and decreed that the guardians should not interfere in it, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the government will regulate property market prices for a 5-year period.

Further on Bomb Blast -- AFP reported that the Pars monarchist group claimed responsibility for the bomb that exploded in a Tehran square early on 22 February. AFP noted that the blast occurred on the anniversary of Reza Shah's accession to the throne in 1920. Meanwhile, IRNA said the number of deaths from the explosion had risen to 15, including 3 revolution guards.

Libya

In a commentary on the world oil glut, which it said was brought about by the policies of successive U.S. administrations, JANA called for a summit of oil producers to deal with the problem and urged Saudi Arabia to reduce production to 4 million barrels per day.

PLO

The Voice of Palestine reported that Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf in a speech at an As-Sa'iqah bureau criticised the "Arabs of America" for maintaining friendly relations with the United States. Earlier, in an interview with MONDAY MORNING, Khalaf described Saudi Arabia's decision to form a joint military committee with the United States as a big mistake.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 036 *23 February 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

YAR President Visits, Talks With Officials C 1
Assembly Committee Rejects ADF Grant Bill C 1

OMAN

YAR President Arrives, Comments on Area Tour [San'a'] C 2
Departs 21 Feb C 3

SAUDI ARABIA

Security Agreement Signed With Morocco [MAP] C 3

UAE

Armed Forces Commander in Chief Resigns 21 Feb C 3
[AL-BAYAN 22 Feb]
French Minister Cheysson Pays 2-Day Visit C 4
Arrives 19 Feb [WAKH] C 4
Views French-Arab Relations C 4
Talks Begin 20 Feb [WAKH] C 5
Received by President C 6
Meets Heir Apparent C 6
Discusses Energy Cooperation [WAKH] C 7
Comments on Visit [Paris] C 7
Holds Press Conference [AL-ITTIHAD 21 Feb] C 7
Departs 21 Feb [WAKH] C 8

PDRY

'Sabotage Gang' Trial Continues in Aden C 9

EGYPT

Muhyi ad-Din Delivers Government Statement D 1
'Ali Briefs Assembly on Foreign Policy D 11

IRAQ

President Saddam Holds Talks With Cheysson E 1
Cheysson Ends Visit E 1
Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques E 1
No 621 E 1
No 622 E 2
No 623 E 3
No 624 E 4
No 625 E 5
Commander on Iran's Losses in Bostan Region E 5
Cease-Fire Proposed To Enable Iran To Bury Dead E 6
Speaker Summons Ambassadors on Jerusalem Meeting E 6
Anti-Syrian Radio on Situation in Hamah 22 Feb E 6
Further Report [Voice of Arab Syria] E 6

JORDAN

Jordan Cites Syrian Radio on Hamah Fighting F 1
Senate Denounces European Meeting in Jerusalem F 1
AR-RA'Y Raps Israeli Propaganda Effort [AR-RA'Y 21 Feb] F 1
Amman Daily Scores U.S. Middle East Policy [JORDAN TIMES 20 Feb] F 2

LEBANON

'Arafat Holds Meeting in Tripoli; Calm Prevails [VOP] G 1
Security Measures Implemented G 1
VOP Notes Israeli Military Fortification G 1
Israeli Buildup Continues [VOP] G 2
PLO, Nationalists Discuss Israeli 'Aggression' [VOP] G 2
Lebanese National Movement Issues Statement [VOP] G 2
Al-Wazzan Fears Israeli Attack as Sinai Ploy G 5
Haddad Raps Syria, Supports UN Forces in South G 5
Sarkis Meets Soviet Envoy on UN Troop Vote G 6

SYRIA

TISHRIN Comments on Link To 'Riots' in Hamah [AFP] H 1
Monte Carlo on Continued Resistance in Hamah H 1
Al-Asad Receives Cables of Support From Hamah H 1
Ba'th Party Branch H 1
Muslim Clergy H 2
Local Administration H 3
Muslim Brotherhood Leader on Hamah Clashes H 3
[London AD-DUSTUR 22 Feb]
Ba'th Party Issues Unity Anniversary Statement H 4
AL-BA'TH Denounces European's Jerusalem Meeting [23 Feb] H 5
Minister al-Khatib Receives Soviet Ambassador [Monte Carlo] H 5
Al-Ahmar Receives Message From CPCZ's Bilak H 5

ISRAEL

Begin Criticizes U.S. 'Plan' To Sell Jordan Arms I 1
Alignment Considering Joint Delegation to U.S. I 1
DAVAR: The Jordanian Challenge to Weinberger [22 Feb] I 2
MA'ARIV Reacts to Secretary of State's Remarks [21 Feb] I 3
Jordan Expels Entire Syrian Embassy Staff I 5
Radio Comments I 5
Defense To Follow 'Tough Policy' on Druze Strike [DAVAR 22 Feb] I 6
Bombs Dismantled in Petah Tiqva, Jerusalem I 6
Cabinet Unanimously Approves Proposed Budget I 6
Egypt's 'Ali Interviewed on Autonomy Talks I 7
Rafah Border To Be Discussed in Cairo 23 Feb I 8

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

OAU Chairman: W. Saharan Talks Completed [AFP] P 1
West Saharan Delegation Seated at Opening Session [AFP] P 1
Fikre-Selassie Calls for Increased OAU Unity [Addis Ababa] P 2
W. Saharan OAU Admission May Split Unity [AFP] P 2
OAU Agrees To Hold 1982 Summit in Libya [AFP] P 3

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Foreign Minister Comments on Talks With Iranians [IRNA] Q 1

LIBYA

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Iran Q 1
Iranian Delegation Departs Q 1
Anti-Imperialist Group Discusses Followup Work Q 2
JANA Blames U.S. for Oil Glut, Urges Summit Q 2
Evidence of U.S. 'Pressure' on Africa Obtained Q 3

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Interviewed on Eve of PRC Visit Q 3

SUDAN

Fifth National People's Assembly Session Begins Q 4
Assembly Officials Nominated Q 4
Speaker Elected Q 4
Assembly Leader Appointed Q 4
Assembly Speaker's Speech Q 5
Khartoum University Students Resume Studies [AFP] Q 5
Embassies Closed in Cost-Cutting Program Q 5

TUNISIA

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives for Official Visit 23 Feb [AFP] Q 6
Bourguiba Receives French Premier Q 6
Mauroy Comments on Talks Q 6

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Government Claims Success in Military Campaign [AFP] R 1
Tigre Rebels Issue Communique on Clashes [AFP] R 1

SOMALIA

EPLF Communique Reports Asmara Airport Raid R 1

UGANDA

Army Overpowers 'Terrorists' in Kampala R 2
Explosions, Gunfire Reported in Kampala Suburbs [AFP] R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

Government To Begin General Offensive in North [Paris] S 1

RWANDA

Cot Says France To Increase, Upgrade Aid [AFP] S 1

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Rawlings 'Impatient' To See Changes Made [AFP] T 1
Chairman Urges People Not To 'Betray' Country T 1
Rampaging Troops Kill Religious Sect Members [AFP] T 1

LIBERIA

Foreign Minister Leaves for OAU Meeting T 2
Calls for OAU 'Strike Force' T 2

NIGERIA

House Approves Budget for New Capital, Defense T 3
President Holds Talks With Cape Verde's Pereira T 3
Four Political Parties Propose Alignment T 3
TRIBUNE Asks Mugabe To Handle Nkomo With Care T 4

UPPER VOLTA

UNHCR Provides Care for Former Ghanian Officials [AFP] T 4

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Jorge Interviewed on Relations With U.S. U 1
SADCC Energy Ministers End Meeting in Luanda U 1
Foreign Minister Leads Delegation to OAU Meeting U 2

MOZAMBIQUE

Briefs: GDR Agriculture Minister U 2

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Meets GDR's Honecker in Berlin 22 Feb U 2
[cross-reference]

SOUTH AFRICA

Malan Calls for 'Extended' Military Service U 3

ZIMBABWE

8,000 Demonstrate Against Nkomo, Back Mugabe U 3
Banana Swears in Six New Ministers 19 Feb U 3
Allegations of Detentions Without Trial Denied U 3
ZAPU District Chairman Resigns, Joins ZANU-PF U 4
Nkomo Warns: A Spark Could Ignite Fighting [Lusaka] U 4
Police, Army Locate Arms Cache Near Bulawayo U 4

KUWAIT

YAR PRESIDENT VISITS, TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

LD221520 Kuwait KUNA in English 1004 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA) -- North Yemen President Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih left here Monday morning following a two-day visit to the country.

He was seen off at the airport by H.H. the amir, H.H. the crown prince and top government officials.

President Salih called before departure for a unified Arab stand to confront menaces resulting from continuity of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

He stated that the Kuwaiti and Yemeni sides affirmed during the talks here that the continuity of the 17-month long war brings more threats to the Gulf region especially when all world efforts and attempts to solve the conflict had failed to put an end to the fighting.

Colonel Salih added that he had agreed with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, to exert sincere efforts for ending inter-Arab differences and to make love and cooperation prevail among the Arabs because this is a pre-requisite for strength of the Arab nation.

He declared that the two sides' viewpoints on matters discussed were identical and said that Kuwait will contribute in financing some projects in North Yemen's second five-year development plan.

The North Yemeni president arrived later in the day in Abu Dhabi and was received by the UAE president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan, and other senior officials.

Colonel Salih, who is accompanied by his Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr and a number of consultants, has already visited Oman and will also visit Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He stated that his tour aims at ending the rift in the Arab ranks and restoration of Arab solidarity.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REJECTS ADF GRANT BILL

LD221248 Kuwait KUNA in English 1157 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA) -- The National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee has rejected a government draft bill asking for allocating the sum of 48 million dollars to cover Kuwait's share in an Arab fund set up to finance the Deterrent Force in Lebanon in a meeting held late Sunday, head of the committee Jasim as-Saqir announced.

He added that the committee discussed the government request in the presence of Under Secretary at the Foreign Ministry Rashid ar-Rashid and other top officials.

Committee sources were quoted by local press as saying that the committee rejected the allocation on certain grounds including current events in Syria and the Syrian stance on the Iraqi-Iranian war "which is contradictory to Arab national interests."

The sources added that the Arab Deterrent Force is no longer a pan-Arab one. In addition, its current mission is not in accordance with the role assigned to it by the Arab League back in 1976.

The Arab Fund is mainly financed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar. The draft law revealed that the sum will cover Kuwaiti share since January 1980.

OMAN

YAR PRESIDENT ARRIVES, COMMENTS ON AREA TOUR

JN201312 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, arrived in Muscat at noon today on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman after which he will pay similar official visits to the countries of the Arab Gulf and other Arab states. He was met on arrival by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman, senior Omani officials, members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps, and our ambassador and members of the Yemeni community in the sultanate.

The brother president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces left San'a' International Airport this morning. He was seen off by Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president of the republic and speaker of the People's Constitutent Assembly; Vice President of the Republic 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani; Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani; Deputy Prime Minister for Internal Affairs Lt Col Mujahid abu Shawarib; Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt Col 'Abdallah al-Bashiri; members of the Consultative Council, the Cabinet, the Higher Reform Committee, the People's Constitutent Assembly and the General Federation of Cooperative Societies; members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps; senior army and public security officers, and a number of government officials and citizens.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondents and representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies, the brother leader President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: This visit is a continuation of previous visits we paid to several fraternal Arab states in the last quarter of 1981. The present visit takes place at a serious and delicate phase in Arab history which requires all Arab political leaders to hold more fraternal meetings to discuss, consult and examine all facts in light of existing circumstances in order to adopt the best means to cope with the challenges and dangers threatening the existence and destiny of this nation, and also in view of the common historic responsibility assumed by Arab leaders toward crucial issues headed by the Palestine question, the occupied Arab territories and the mounting hostile activities of the Zionist entity such as its announcement of the annexation of the Golan Heights and the escalation of its aggression in southern Lebanon.

The brother leader asserted: All this calls for more mutual understanding and consultation to achieve solidarity and unity of ranks and the pooling of all energies and resources.

The brother leader added: Acting on YAR policy, which aspires to bolster Arab solidarity and unity of ranks and clearing the Arab atmosphere, we felt it was our duty to pay these visits to consult with our brothers so as to achieve what would guarantee the Arab nation's honor, dignity and unity for the sake of the Palestine question -- the central issue of the Arab nation and its inevitable victory over all conspiracies to abort or contain this issue. The conspiratorial Camp David accords and the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel constituted the peak of that odious conspiring. All Arab efforts and capabilities must be concerted to oppose these conspiracies without hesitation or outbidding.

Concluding his statement, the brother president of the republic asserted that these visits will undoubtedly afford him the opportunity to exchange views on the existing good bilateral relations with the fraternal countries he will be visiting and to promote productive cooperation with these fraternal countries in all fields.

Departs 21 Feb

GF210849 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpt] YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Oman today after concluding a 2-day visit to Oman. His Majesty Sultan Qabus was foremost among those who bade him farewell at the airport.

SAUDI ARABIA

SECURITY AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MOROCCO

LD221740 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 22 Feb (MAP) -- Saudi Arabia and Morocco signed here Saturday a security agreement to organize cooperation in such fields as exchange of expertise, training and security.

The agreement was signed by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif and his Moroccan counterpart, Driss Basri, who arrived in Riyadh on Saturday from Jidda within a visit to the kingdom during which he will attend the emergency conference of Arab interior ministers starting this Monday.

Prince Nayif said the agreement was a prelude to regulating extradition of criminals between the two countries. According to the agreement, he said, a joint committee from the two ministries will meet twice annually under the chairmanship of interior ministers or their deputies to explore domains of cooperation. He expressed satisfaction over the signing of the agreement and said it would benefit the two sisterly countries.

Prince Nayif said the agreement would organize the years-old cooperation between the two ministries, adding that his talks with Mr. Basri were complementary to their previous discussions held in Morocco last year.

Mr. Basri, in a statement to SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, said his visit to the kingdom was an opportunity for consultations with Prince Nayif "in order to go together on the same path and adopt the same plan."

UAE

ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF RESIGNS 21 FEB

GF221149 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] We have received the following from WAM:

"We Sayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, after reviewing Article 138 of the Provisional Constitution and Unionist Decree No 3 for the year 1978 on the appointment of the commander in chief of the armed forces, and according to what has been proposed by the deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and following the approval of the Council of Ministers, we have issued the following decree:

Article One: The resignation of Brig Gen Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid from the post of commander in chief of the armed forces is accepted.

Article Two: This decree is to be implemented as of the day of its issuance and is to be published in the official bulletin.

Issued at the presidential palace on 21 February 1982."

FRENCH MINISTER CHEYSSON PAYS 2-DAY VISIT

Arrives 19 Feb

GF192005 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1955 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Feb (WAKH) -- French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening for an official 2-day visit to the UAE.

During his visit, the French minister will hold talks with UAE officials on Arab-European relations, international issues of mutual interest, the Middle East question and bilateral relations.

Upon his arrival at the airport, the French minister was received by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalifah al-Mubarak, UAE ambassador in Paris; a number of Foreign Ministry officials; and Jean-Claude Guisset, French ambassador to the UAE.

Views French-Arab Relations

GF200430 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1718 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Paris, 19 Feb (WAM) -- French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson has announced for the first time since the Socialists came to power in France that a Palestinian state must be established in the occupied territory.

In an important statement to WAM on the occasion of his visit to the UAE, which will begin this evening, Mr Cheysson said he is very pleased to visit the UAE. He said he has been looking forward for this visit for some time. He said relations between the two countries have been good for a long time. He said that the Gulf states have an international role to play and that the region itself is important due to its strategic location. He expressed hope that Israel has the courage to accept reality. He also said that no peace can be achieved unless the Palestinian people obtain their aspired rights.

Claude Cheysson indicated that during his visit to the UAE he will have an opportunity to discuss the world situation, the region's problems, and relations between Europe and the Gulf region. He said: "I cannot imagine visiting the UAE without discussing the Palestinian question in detail."

He added: "This visit will give me an opportunity to know the region more closely and become acquainted with the development experience in it and how it reconciles the traditions of its ancient society in the field of marine activities and fishing with the issues of development and also its method of preserving its personality and identity."

Asked why France declined to support the Arab draft resolution at the United Nations in connection with imposing sanctions on Israel for annexing the Golan Heights, Cheysson said: "Why don't you treat us like the rest of our European partners who are even more distant from the Arab stand than we? We have been and are being criticized more sharply than the others, although we voted with the Arabs on referring the issue to the General Assembly."

He said: "I know the Israelis behave in an unbearable manner, but we cannot sever all ties with them by imposing sanctions. The search for peace must dominate all issues. We have been disappointed because the world's denunciation of the Golan annexation will not permit any progress to be achieved within the United Nations. The time is right for defining Resolution 242 more clearly so as to state the Palestinians' right to self-determination and their right to establish a Palestinian state."

"These two principles are not included in any of the UN resolutions on the problem. We submitted our suggestions to this effect but have not succeeded. We shall try again when the time is right to introduce these principles in UN resolutions."

Asked about the ambiguous and equivocal French stand on the issue of the Palestinian state and about his view of the location of this state, Mr Cheysson said: "A Palestinian state cannot be established anywhere in the region unless approved by the settlement parties, which include the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian fighting force." He added: "I cannot imagine the PLO accepting a Palestinian state that is not on territory where the Palestinians live, that is, in the occupied territories."

Regarding France's role in settling the Middle East question and France's refusal to propose an initiative on a solution, Mr Cheysson said: "We insist that we must continue to be as active as we can, but I reject any state from outside the region playing the role of the negotiator, referee or mediator. No European minister has visited the region as extensively as we have. We are ready to participate in any initiative on the condition that this initiative stems from a country or several countries in the region itself. Even if Europe were to hesitate, France would proceed alone." He added: "When the region's states see that our participation is necessary and that this would be beneficial, we will not turn back, no matter what the costs and dangers. We do not dictate peace; you suggest and we shall be ready at once." The French minister cited two examples on this and said: "When we were asked to participate in the UN international force in Lebanon, we did not hesitate. This also applied to the Sinai peace-keeping force."

The French minister denied that France is trying to improve its relations with Israel at the expense of Arab-French friendship. He said: "Those who say so have no desire for peace and I can never understand them."

Asked if he believes the French president will convince Begin during his next visit to Israel to accept the principles adopted by France on the Middle East question, Cheysson said: "We must not look at the problem as if it were a bloody battle with a single man. I believe the horizons of peace have begun to appear and the Israelis must be convinced that they will find their future and security in peace. In this, their legitimate representative must either change his mind or be replaced. I am hopeful that he understands that war -- hot or cold -- will not secure their future even if they are able to win a hot war. However, I admit that there are very few indications that this hope will be realized."

The minister said he will visit Iraq on Sunday for 1 day. He added: "We have very advanced relations with Iraq in several fields: scientific, cultural, technical and even military. This will be my first visit to Iraq."

Answering a question on the reconstruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor destroyed by Israel, Cheysson said: "France is prepared to cooperate with all Third World states, including Iraq, in nuclear technology provided it is not converted to military targets." He said: "We were assured on this matter and discussions now are confined to the technical part of the issue."

Talks Begin 20 Feb

GF200953 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAKH) -- Official talks began here today between UAE and French delegations led by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister. During the session held this morning, Rashid 'Abdallah stressed the importance of the French minister's visit to reinforcing bilateral relations and discussing current Arab and international issues, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf.

He also stressed that peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people are granted their legitimate right of self-determination and an independent state on their soil.

The French minister stressed the importance of these talks in reinforcing bilateral relations. He added that the two countries belong to two ancient cultures: the UAE belongs to the Arab nation and France to the European group, and the two countries have many common aspirations with regard to international politics.

Received by President

GF201034 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, representative of his highness the president; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalifah al-Mubarak, the UAE ambassador to France; and Mr Jean-Claude Guisset, the French ambassador to the UAE.

His highness the president demanded that the European countries, particularly France, distinguish in their positions and policies between the aggressor and the attacked, stand by justice and support the Palestinian people's just right to establish their independent state on their own soil. His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan reiterated the UAE's constant position on the Palestinian issue, the main issue of the Arab nation. He said there will be no just and durable peace in the Middle East until the Palestinians recover their rights.

The meeting also included a review of the situation in the Middle East and a number of the current international issues in addition to cooperation between the two countries.

Meets Heir Apparent

GF201926 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAM) -- Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, UAE heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the armed forces, met in his office this afternoon with Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister.

The meeting was attended by Surur ibn Muhammad, director of the president's office; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of foreign affairs; Khalifah al-Mubarak, UAE ambassador to France; Jean-Claude Guisset, French ambassador to the UAE; and the delegation accompanying the visiting French minister.

During the meeting, Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid informed Claude Cheysson of the goals of the GCC. He also noted its members' interest in ensuring the safety and stability of the region and in protecting and developing it.

He said: The GCC is receiving support from the international community because it serves the region's peoples as well as the rest of the world by requiring that the superpowers' conflicts be kept away from the region.

Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid affirmed that Gulf security is the sole responsibility of its states and that its security is part of the Arab nation's security.

WAM has learned that Lt Gen Khalifah ibn Zayid has asked France to play a role in the Palestinian issue because of its support for justice.

During the meeting, they also discussed bilateral relations, the Arab and international situation and the situation in the Middle East in general and the Gulf region in particular.

Discusses Energy Cooperation

GF201918 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (WAKH) -- Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, met here tonight with Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister.

After the meeting, Dr al-'Utaybah stated that bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil, nuclear and solar energy were discussed and an agreement was reached on exchanging delegations of specialists in the fields in the near future.

He added that the French minister expressed his country's readiness to provide full technical cooperation in the fields of petroleum and nuclear and solar energy. Dr al-'Utaybah stated that France has expressed its readiness to supply the UAE with a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes, adding that this topic needs to be studied by the competent authorities.

Comments on Visit

LD202024 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Claude Cheysson in the Middle East: It is in a much more relaxed stmosphere that the minister of external relations is holding talks with leading personalities of the United Arab Emirates. The climate has become more relaxed since Claude Cheysson stated that a future Palestinian state should be located in the territories occupied by Israel. One of the leading political figures in the emirates, the crown prince, even asked Claude Cheysson to ensure that France plays its part in achieving a settlement to the Palestinian problem. Consequently, anxiety has been dissipated, as Claude Cheysson informed our special correspondent Alain Chalbron:

[Begin recording] I had the impression of being faced with highly responsible interlocutors and that we must make a great effort at personal reflection. Earlier I said I was struck by the critical sense shown by our partners who have not been sparing with questions, and sometimes asked tough ones. Consequently, the word "anxiety" is not the right one to use.

I do not think that the rulers of Abu Dhabi are anxious about any particular declaration, or would immediately draw extreme conclusions from them.

Abu Dhabi had the impression of very close contact with France. And then, suddenly in France, the majority party changed [words indistinct], the faces changed, the personalities changed. The word "socialism" is a surprising word in this part of the world. [passage indistinct] So, there was some unease, it is true; an anxiety over this or that gesture, or this or that statement, or this or that change. [words indistinct] appear to be more stable for all that. [end recording]

Holds Press Conference

GF211949 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Feb 82 p 17

[Text] French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson described the negotiations he held with UAE officials yesterday as very successful. He said the UAE is a fundamental element in the Arab world and it works for Arab unity and allocates most of its national income to assist Third World and developing countries.

He said the reduction in French oil imports is not politically motivated but is a result of efforts to reduce energy consumption in France and Western countries.

In a press conference held at the Abu Dhabi Meridian Hotel yesterday, Cheysson said his talks in the UAE covered all difficult issues and principles that govern the stand of the two countries in favor of right, justice and respect for freedom.

Monsieur Cheysson said: "We should not wait long to relieve the pain of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The PLO represents the fighting Palestinian force. The representative of the Palestinian people can only be determined after the Palestinian state has been established and after its people have chosen their representative. The PLO is a partner that cannot be ignored in the negotiations, and it must participate in these negotiations."

Cheysson said: "We cannot ask the PLO to recognize Israel, because it is not a state or a government. Settlement in the Middle Ease requires negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and their possible representative, the PLO."

He added that the French Government has long been calling for self-determination for the Palestinians and that the new government, which assumed office last May, will fight for the self-determination of all peoples.

Cheysson pointed out that the right to self-determination means the right of the Palestinian people to determine the characteristics of the state they want to have. He said: "President Mitterrand declared this when he was the leader of the Socialist Party and after he became president. We have declared this in New York, Beirut, Amman, Tel Aviv, At-Ta'if and Cairo, and now we reiterate it in Abu Dhabi.

Answering a question on whether France will provide the UAE with a nuclear reactor for peaceful research, he said: "This matter is not new. During President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to the UAE 2 years ago, six protocols were signed between the two countries, including one on nuclear cooperation. This issue has not been followed up.
Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, expressed interest in this matter and a committee of experts will discuss it."

Answering a question on whether he agrees with FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's view that Europe can do nothing more than issue communiques and statements on the Middle East issue, he said: "I do not entirely agree with him. I think we should not propose or decide what is to be done. However, we will do anything specific that others ask us to do. He cited as an example, France's participation in the peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon and in the multinational peace-keeping force in Sinai. He added: "We are ready to do something more than issue statements. If Europe is unwilling to continue, France will continue along. We are ready for peace, even if this is risky for us."

Departs 21 Feb

GF211025 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 21 Feb (WAKH) -- French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson left Abu Dhabi today for Baghdad after concluding a 2-day visit to the UAE. During this visit he held talks dealing with the current situation in the Middle East, the Arab Gulf and Euro-Arab relations in addition to bilateral relations.

Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, after seeing Cheysson off, noted that the French minister's visit to the UAE was successful. The UAE explained its position on the Middle East issue in general and the Palestinian issue in particular. He added that this explanation was important and essential following the recent (?contradictions) in French policy and European hesitation in supporting Arab rights. He added that the visit gave the French minister a new view and gave the UAE the opportunity to explain and clarify its position. He also expressed his blief that Cheysson left with new convictions which will be useful for French cooperation with the UAE and the Arab countries in general.

Meanwhile, Claude Cheysson announced that his visit gave him the opportunity to explain to UAE officials the stance of his government and the dimensions of French Middle East policy and a number of matters that concern the two sides.

PDRY

'SABOTAGE GANG' TRIAL CONTINUES IN ADEN

EA221840 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] This morning the republic's high court continued the trial of the sabotage gang of 12.

The court cross-examined the defendant 'Ali 'Abdallah Dahmash following the reading of his statement. The defendant told everything about his activities and dealings with mercenaries and foreign intelligence agents from the time he ran away from the republic until his return to Aden to carry out destructive operations.

The defendant admitted that he joined the others after 80 days of training. The training involved map study, estimation of distances and explosives operations. He revealed that six foreign experts trained him in the use of explosives and other materials.

Later the defendant 'Ali 'Abdallah Dahmash and his partner, Ahmad Husayn Ahmad, were ordered to return to Aden to scout the oil area of Caltex. The scouting included an estimation of distances and an observation of barbed wire, the gate and the guards.

Dahmash then went abroad to renew contact with the foreign experts and gave them details of his reconnaissance work. He also resumed training in the practical handling of explosives. He then returned to Aden where he met three of the other defendants and Lt Col Salih Muhsin in order to implement the criminal plot; thereafter they were arrested.

Dahmash also admitted using codes and symbols, such as songs broadcast on a fixed radio frequency, for communication with the elements abroad.

The court president adjourned the session so that the entire court could proceed to the two Caltex areas in Ar-Rawdah, (Al-Mualla) to see the place for themselves.

The court will resume tomorrow morning to continue hearing of 'Ali 'Abdallah Dahmash's testimony.

MUHYI AD-DIN DELIVERS GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

NC201123 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0936 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Statement of policy Delivered by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din at the People's Assembly on 20 February -- live in a linkup of Cairo transmitters]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, Honorable Members: On 22 November last year, the former government presented to your august assembly a detailed working program regarding national issues, defining their dimensions, and specifying the government's method of tackling them.

There is no doubt that this program in all its facets, is regarded as being interwoven, with one step after another. However, following the formation of the new government we present to you this statement on the principal features and outlines of the government's policy, taking into consideration additions dictated by current circumstances, a sincere desire to achieve the aspirations of the people and to honor our responsibilities, guided by the statements by the president of the republic to your august assembly and the entire people, and determined to have work in every aspect based on seriousness, honesty, what is right and just without straying or deviating from the right course.

In this, the government is fully confident that it will receive every support and encouragement from you as regards your opinion, initiative, control and legislation, as your august assembly is expected to do and with the same program you have charted for our cherished Egypt. We embark on this period under the canopy of democracy, which we regard as the genuine guarantee of progress. There is no going back on the democratic course. Democracy is a practical exercise under which there is freedom and responsibility, and all opinions, however contradictory in appearance, are combined so that a true vision may in the end crystallize so as to achieve dignity and prestige for the homeland.

There is no doubt that among the special characteristics of this democratic atmosphere is the freedom of the press, which means honesty and which is a necessity that imposes itself because the press has a prominent leading role in deepening the concept of democracy in the service of the people. The democratic dialogue taking place at the highest levels conducted by the president of the republic in which the National Democratic Party and all the opposition parties are participating confirms and manifests the extent of the president's belief in democracy as a practice and course.

There is no doubt that the extraordinary measures the government has taken had and still have their justifications for the protection of the security of the homeland and the citizens. Everybody is looking forward to the day when we can abolish these measures in confirmation of the faith in deepening democracy and in the prevalence of democracy and in the work for the protection of the people against all perils and all forms of terrorism and safeguard their livelihood, work and future.

The effectiveness of the security organs' efforts and their quick awareness of the situation have safeguarded our domestic front and national march and have secured and deepened a feeling of security and reassurance for all the citizens. These organs are still playing their role in confronting the elements which continue to believe in the methods of extremism and violence under the cover of religion or certain glittering slogans to distort and impede our march. The security organs are confronting them in a positive manner in order to protect the constitutional legitimacy and bolster sought-after stability so that we may surge toward comprehensive development.

Your Excellency, the People's Assembly Speaker: At this phase the government focuses its attention on the following foreign policy landmarks:

1. Continuing to follow up the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the remaining segment of Sinai on schedule; that is, on the 26th [as heard] of this coming month of April. The government has made its preparations to take over this remaining segment of the cherished homeland. Furthermore, scrupulous dedication to lasting and comprehensive peace and to the quest of achieving this peace is considered a principled commitment which cannot be squandered or bargained, a fateful option without an alternative and a course of action which spares the area and its peoples the woes and calamities of wars.

2. Egypt has been and will continue to be an Arab and Islamic state.

3. The right to self-determination is ineluctable as concerns the Palestinian people. It is a basis of the Camp David agreements. It is imperative that the Palestinian issue -- the quintessence of the Middle East conflict -- should always take priority in the quest of a solution to ensure stability and comprehensive peace in the area.

4. The autonomy negotiations must continue until their objective is achieved. The declaration of principles in regard to full autonomy for the Palestinian people must take the form of a declaration based on righteousness and justice. The reason is that Egypt cannot squander others' rights or concede all or part of these rights.

5. The policy of nonalignment is the main prop of our external policy. Egypt was a founder of the Nonalignment Movement and it is faithful to this movement. Egypt dedicates its attention to bolstering this movement and to the rectification of its course; cooperation with all the states on an equal footing and on mutual respect. We also reaffirm our refusal to grant military bases to any state out of our belief that the security of the area must stem from its states and from the bolstering of these states' intrinsic defensive forces.

6. The government expresses its appreciation of the contribution of the successive U.S. administrations to work to achieve peace in the Middle East. The government also appreciates the economic and military aid which these administrations offered to the Egyptian people within the framework of the close ties of friendship between the two peoples.

7. Egypt encourages the settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict through peaceful means. Egypt wants the peace-loving states to double their efforts to fulfill this objective.

8. Egypt's relations with Africa are governed by fateful ties. Egypt stands opposed to all forms of foreign intervention in Africa's affairs. Egypt also demands that the African people be given their right to develop and to enjoy elementary human rights, and that racial segregation and discrimination be ended. Egypt emphasizes its devotion to the bolstering of the OAU and to the promotion of the constructive role which the OAU is playing.

9. It is imperative for us to praise the great political and economic achievements made during his excellency the president's recent tour. This tour has stressed the depth and strength of the relations which bind us to the friendly states which the president has visited. During this tour, his excellency the president emphasized the need for achieving peace in the area and the need for the initiation of a dialogue between the United States and the Palestinian people's representatives. He also emphasized the constructive European role of contributing to the solution of the Middle East issue.

10. His excellency the president's visit to the Sultanate of Oman also mirrored the deep relations existing between the two Arab countries and came as an affirmation of their common interests. During the discussions, a review was made of the efforts which Egypt is deploying for completing the steps being taken toward a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. His Majesty Sultan Qabus expressed his support for the steps which are being taken in a manner ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people and of the Arab nation. His excellency the president also emphasized Egypt's support for the role performed by the council for cooperation among the Arab Gulf states in preserving the area's security and stability.

Mr Speaker, Deputies: The president has given the economic issue the priority and attention it deserves. He has called on economic specialists and experts from the various parties to express their views on aspects of the issue and the economic policies that should be adopted. The response has been strong and objective. He then called for convening an economic conference 13-15 February. High-level Egyptian economists participated in this conference.

The government will take into consideration the various studies that were submitted, the discussions that took place during the conference and the results that the conference produced. The government wishes to affirm that its approach to the economic issue is based on the following foundations:

First: The inevitability of adopting a clear strategy for economic development based on a group of integrated objectives, foremost of which are creating productive employment opportunities for new numbers of the working force, redistributing the current working force in a more productive way, orienting production to satisfy the basic needs of the citizens, and increasing the export potential of the economy.

Second: Adhering to planning as a scientific method to achieve economic development. It must be comprehensive planning based on the three main sectors: The public sector, the private national, Arab and foreign sector, and the cooperative sector. Adhering to planning means defining the society's priorities and then implementing them. It also means achieving equilibrium and coordination between the various sectors in the light of the economic changes and their interrelationship. For example, there must be equilibrium between the population and resources, equilibrium between financial resources and their allocation in the general budget, equilibrium between wages and prices, equilibrium in the balance of payments, and coordination and integration between the public sector and the private sector.

Third: Paying attention to social problems when drawing up policies for the various economic changes. The government realizes that achieving a strategy for economic development, particularly creating productive employment opportunities for the working forces, requires increasing investments above their current level. Undoubtedly achieving this increase is linked to two important things:

1. The need for all groups of the society to make creative efforts to increase real savings.

2. The need for the government to work to increase its revenues and reduce its current expenditure. This will make available more revenues which can be used in investment projects. As part of its comprehensive planning, the government must increase its efficiency in using manpower.

The government is fully confident that all the groups of the society will participate in achieving its development and prosperity. It also establishes its policy on increasing the resources devoted to investment, be it general or private investment, on the following bases:

1. Creating new channels to attract the savings of the private sector, especially small savers and Egyptians working abroad, and directing these savings toward investment projects. Thus, these savings will not be used for speculation on agricultural lands and building plots or for financing alien consumption patterns.

Here lies the importance of popular development based on encouraging small and medium-sized projects and the distribution of these projects in the various governorates. These projects aim primarily at developing the village and at benefitting from the traditional expertise available to them. Here also lies the importance of the role of the local and banking organs whose activity extends to areas where savings are available.

2. Increasing the contribution of the banking sector, especially the foreign and joint banks, in providing investment resources by encouraging these banks to establish specialized departments to carry out the necessary studies to identify investment opportunities and urging these banks to allocate part of their deposits for investment purposes.

3. Increasing the efficiency of the taxation system to prevent tax evasion and achieve an increase in the collection of the various kinds of taxes.

4. Increasing reliance on our indigenous resources to finance our investment projects, in addition to the easy loans we get from the international organizations and friendly states.

5. Reducing government expenditure by reconsidering its various forms and excluding whatever is unnecessary for providing for the essential needs of the overwhelming majority of the people and by resorting to scientific administrative methods in managing the public funds so that we may achieve the same amount of services with less expenses.

6. Limiting consumption trends and consequently the increasing import trends in society.

These are the bases on which the government's policy is established to provide the desired increase in the size of the revenues earmarked for investment so as to ensure a continuous increase in production and raise production averages while giving priority to goods and agricultural and industrial production.

Overcoming the difficulties confronting the Egyptian economy and realizing high averages of economic development require, in addition to providing the required investments, several other important measures which would extend to cover the following fields.

I. Manpower development: Egypt's real wealth is its manpower wealth. The government will persistently act to increase revenues from this wealth by preparing and providing several manpower development programs. These programs will include an expansion of the technical schools, setting up vocational training centers and the planning of a sufficient independent budget for training, particularly inside the production units. They will also include various programs on administrative development and the preparation of administrative leaders in the various fields while taking interest in administrative organization and in following modern methods in production and administration. In emphasizing its faith in this vital field and its importance in promoting the production efficiency of the Egyptian man, the government will allocate a sufficient amount of its investments to achieve this goal.

II. The public sector has been and will remain the main prop of production in the structure of the Egyptian economy. Its surplus and the income from the taxes imposed on it contribute to the financing of a large amount of the general budget's investments. Moreover, in recent years it has assumed many of the social burdens in the field of stabilizing prices and providing employment. It became clear in past few years that the public sector requires intensive efforts to improve the economy of its units and increase their production efficiency. The government has studied several plans aimed at guiding and developing the public sector. These proposals have been formulated and the government will present to your august assembly during its current session a bill on the public sector which is established on the followed bases:

1. Keeping intact the state's ownership of the public sector.

2. Stressing the right of the workers to participate in the management of the companies where they work in a way which would realize full cooperation between them and the companies higher administration.

3. Rectifying the financial structures of the public sector's units to preserve their cash liquidity, enable them to fully mobilize their production capacities and benefit from the investment opportunities available to them.

4. Liberating the administration from bureaucratic impediments and from the stagnation of laws and bills by granting wider powers and jurisdictions to the boards of directors of the companies and their general assemblies within the framework of an integral legislation which would safeguard the rights of the workers and provide them with better opportunities for productive action.

5. Choosing the appropriate formula for a comprehensive institutional and organizational framework through which the public sector will be managed.

III. Subsidy: The government's policy on the question of subsidy springs mainly from its full appreciation of the role which the people, with their various classes, perform directly or indirectly in easing the burdens of life for a large number of the sons of the people with limited income and in checking the trend of inflation.

While also realizing the negative effects of subsidies on the structure of prices, the proper distribution of resources and the state's budget and investment, the government believes that the only way to remedy these negative aspects is to increase the rates of development, promote productivity and work at correcting the relationship between wages and prices in addition to rationalizing the subsidy to ensure that it reaches those who really deserve it. In addition to this, the government believes that, after adequate preparations and a comprehensive study of the various segments of society, the matter calls for reconsidering the [case] of those who are capable [financially] yet have ration cards.

IV. Importation without transferring currency and foreign currency. It has become clear that the rates of importation has been increasing tremendously year after year and that the rate of exchange of the Egyptian pound has been characterized by instability, while tending to drop constantly in recent years. There is no doubt that a link exists between the two aforementioned phenomena. The negative effects of increased importation went beyond influencing the rate of exchange of the Egyptian pound to influencing our local industries and production increases.

The economic policy aims at revising and rationalizing importation without transferring currency and at having imports dealt with through banks. The policy also considers that the effect of the decisions to be adopted in this field should be restricted to the merchants, importers and brokers who deal with imports so as to control and organize imports without transferring currency and not to ban, restrict, or raise obstacles to imports because the government believes that a great amount of these imports serve the needs of the masses as well as the needs of production activities in general.

The economic policy also aims to continue to safeguard the freedom of possession of and orderly dealings through banks in foreign currency with the required flexibility in order to secure and bolster confidence in this form of dealing in the market. Therefore, these decisions do not constrain the individual but aim at enhancing his freedom in dealing with foreign currency and his flexibility in such dealings. Therefore, in the field of importation without transferring currency, it has been decided:

1. All importation operations shall be carried out through the banks without transferring currency.

2. Commodities shall be divided into four groups with graded priorities.

3. These aforementioned commodity groups shall be dealt with according to their degree of necessity and importance. Upon a request to open credit, the importer shall deposit in the bank for a period of 1 month and without interest a percentage of the value of the commodity to be imported, ranging from 25 percent and going up to 40 percent, 75 percent and 100 percent as a guarantee from the importer without prejudicing the contractual relationship between the importer and the exporter.

4. The importers shall undertake to secure all the foreign currency they need through banks.

5. The importation rationalizing committee in which all the sectors concerned are represented, both governmental and private, shall review the prices of the commodities and the needs of the market in light of local production and imports from other sources with a view to ensuring legitimate competition and protecting the consumer and the importer simultaneously.

In the sphere of dealing with foreign currency, it has been decided that the importation operations shall be financed not by transferring currency but through the transfers coming from abroad to the banks or through the foreign currency accounts opened in the banks inside the country. In addition to this, the Egyptian returning from abroad shall, for the purpose of financing importations without transferring currency, deposit all the foreign currency he has in excess of the value of 1,000 Egyptian pounds in a bank within 72 hours from the time he returns without any need for a currency declaration.

Non-Egyptians in the country shall transfer the equivalent of 150 or an equivalent amount in convertible foreign currency [sentence as heard].

Before concluding my statement to the august assembly on economic and financial affairs, I would like to point out that the government has presented to your assembly a bill on opening an additional allocation in the state's general budget for the current fiscal year in order to meet the demands of a national, political and imperative nature that have cropped up following the approval of the budget and that call for additional funds.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members: The government emphasizes its adherence to the economic open-door policy as a productive measure. This policy shall be implemented with a clear strategy and thorough planning, while emphasizing the social aspect of economic development. Planning should give the private sector its role to play to achieve the aims of development.

The plan must also be characterized by seriousness, reality and flexibility simultaneously. Whatever the difficulties that confront the Egyptian economy during this period, increasing production and productivity must be the basic aim of the corrective economic measures. Intensive efforts must be made to achieve this so that development can proceed in all its dimensions to the highest standards so that we may gain for the Egyptian citizen their natural right to a prosperous life and proide him with the services of which he is in dire need.

Mr Speaker, Esteemed Members: After having spoken of these economic issues, and if this august assembly grants me the permission, may I briefly review the projects which the government will implement in the last quarter of the present budget as well as the outlines of the projects which, God willing, will be implemented over the coming fiscal years. I want to remind you of the detailed statement which was made by the outgoing government in announcing the projects and plans in the field of activity of each ministry. The august assembly is aware that the government is particularly concerned about the oil industry and with its development through the intensification of oil and natural gas prospecting. The government is confident that oil is a principal source of currency; it is even regarded as a basic ingredient in the achievement of the country's comprehensive development.

Furthermore, the government will seek to meet the increasing demand for energy through the implementation of a program for generating power, a program which depends on nuclear energy and on the self-renewing and substitute energy sources. This program limits the use of oil as a direct source for generating power. The government has also prepared a plan to replace and modernize the power grids which have exceeded their life span, to take strides in the domain of providing all of the countryside with power, and to procure the requirements of industry.

The government believes that the industrial sector's export potential is a principal objective, in addition to this sector's meeting its local requirements. Therefore, the government has ensured adequate investments for the public industrial sector in addition to encouraging the private sector to enable these two sectors to fulfill their objectives.

For this year the government's aim is to achieve an industrial production valued at some 4 billion pounds. A followup of the production figures to this point makes it clear that this production will realize the targeted figures on schedule.

Furthermore, the government desires to praise the major development which has been introduced in the war production sector. The government is scrupulously devoted to the future advancement of this sector, in full coordination with the industrial sector, to provide the requirements of our armed forces and those of friendly states.

In the domain of agriculture and land reclamation, the government will seek to increase production vertically and to expand it horizontally. To achieve the first objective, it will continue to develop agricultural research in a way which emphasizes the use of the best scientific, modern ways to increase productivity, to produce new breeds of seedlings, to use fertilizers and sophisticated irrigation methods and intensified cultivation, while devoting attention to draingage to ensure the maintenance of the soil in a good condition and its continuing ability to yield crops.

The government devotes special attention to anything tending to affect food security in the domain of agricultural crops. It also seeks to develop the diverse forms of animal wealth in a manner which tends to limit imports and provide the citizens with their requirements.

In the domain of horizontal expansion, the government calls on the citizens to contribute to the land reclamation efforts in addition to the investments earmarked for land reclamation government's budget for this purpose. This land reclamation should be coupled with the creation of construction communities around the newly reclaimed lands, and with reduction to the lowest reclamation and cultivation costs possible.

In the sphere of supply policy, the government seeks to procure our requirements of basic commodities and to expand the potentials of the various production activities. This is because, in addition to the new flour mills, the construction of which began this year, the government is interested in expanding the mechanization of the bread industry by manufacturing bakery equipment locally. Furthermore, the government wants to increase distribution outlets through the establishment of 155 combines and branches. It also wants to back the popular clothing project to make it cover all the governorates of the republic.

The government also devotes special attention to supply supervision and to the intensification of inspection campaigns to encompass all the distribution centers.

In the area of transport and communications and of maritime transport, work is making headway under intensified programs in the renewal of railroads. The objective is to ensure that, during this year, all the railroad coaches will be remodeled and all the locomotives replaced with new ones within the next 3 years. The implementation of the Cairo subway has also begun so that it can participate in resolving the issue of passenger transport within the capital.

The current plan provides for the construction of road projects in upper Egypt, the Delta, in the deserts and in the Nile Valley and for linking Egypt with fraternal Sudan. A number of bridges will be built over the Nile to facilitate transport between the population centers on both sides.

In the field of communications, work has begun on the European Community's projects to expand telephone services in Cairo, Alexandria and the governorates. This is in addition to the projects that will be implemented in cooperation with the United States. The local telephone industry is also contributing to solving several local difficulties.

In the maritime transport field, expansions are being carried out in the ports of Alexandria, Port Said, Suez and Safajah, in addition to the new ports in Damietta and Ad-Dukhaylah which will eliminate congestion in the ports. A new program has begun to develop the Egyptian fleet, grant it facilities and give it a greater part in external trade traffic.

In the field of tourism, the government is working to deepen and emphasize the role of tourism in achieving the objectives of the social and economic development plan. It will raise the standard of services in the sectors of tourism and aviation and will increase the number of tourist bureaus abroad, especially in the countries which send tourists. It will also pay attention to local tourism by the citizens.

The government will encourage tourism in new areas, specifically Sinai, the Red Sea, the oases and central Egypt. it also gives attention to preparing and training the working force necessary for the tourism sector.

The government will also strengthen the Egyptian national air carrier with long-range, medium-range and short-range planes so that the national air carrier will be able to reach important tourist markets abroad and important tourist sites at home.

Mr Speaker, Deputies: Work and effort are needed to draw up a comprehensive housing plan, as part of the overall national plan, in which the roles of the state and the private sector will be defined. The state's tasks are confined to the following:

1. Providing building plots.

2. Providing basic utilities.

3. Economic and popular housing is the main responsibility of the state. At the same time, the state will provide easy-term loans to the private sector to participate in building houses.

4. Finishing quickly the current projects for producing building materials so that they will start production as soon as possible. In this field, it pleases me to announce to the distinguished assembly that actual production from two new cement production lines in the Tura and Hulwan companies will begin as of the end of March. A third production line in the national company will also be completed shortly. Hence, total production in 1982-83 will be about 5.5 million tons of cement while our actual needs are estimated at 8.4 million tons.

In the sphere of finding alternatives to red bricks, such as cement bricks, mud bricks, sand bricks and gypsum blocks, there is a plan to establish 24 mud brick factories, 8 light sand brick factories and 2 gypsum blocks factories. Encouragement will also be given to the establishment of cement brick factories, since the production of cement brick consumes less energy than other kinds of bricks.

Work has begun on the Ad-Dukhaylah iron project in cooperation with Japanese establishments. At present, the quantity of iron rods used in the construction of buildings imported annually is twice the quantity produced locally.

The government concentrates on supporting and developing the contractors' sector and on removing the obstacles standing in its way so that it will be able to implement construction in full. The government will work to provide trained technical labor through the training centers that are being set up.

Mr Speaker, Deputies: Supporting the Islamic call occupies an important aspect of the government's mission so that the spiritual light will continue to guide all the believers, unify their words, consolidate their cohesion and strengthen the ideals which we are all eager to implant, especially in our youths -- this large sector, which is the hope of the future and the edifice of progress. The mosque will remain central to and voice of the call. Its mission will remain the fountainhead and light of the call. The government will spare no effort to enable the civilian and government mosques to perform their mission of calling for faith in God through wisdom and good advice and of enlightening the worshippers about their religion and its sublime ideals -- ideals which led the Islamic nation throughout history toward building its societies on solid foundations of deep faith and strong adherence to justice.

In the field of justice, the government will give more attention to the construction and maintenance of the court houses. It will also seek to simplify litigation measures to expedite the consideration of cases.

In the field of health, the government gives prevention priority over treatment and concentrates on the expansion of health insurance as it is the ideal way of taking care of the citizens. The health sector seeks to expand its various capacities to approach the world averages.

The government gives special attention to family planning because of the adverse effects of the population increase on all economic development plans. The government seeks to provide medicine at a price suitable to citizens despite the universal increase in its price and the extraordinary increase in its annual average consumption.

In the field of social insurance, the government seeks to increase those directly insured to 11 million citizens and those benefitting from retirement wages to approximately 4 million citizens during the current fiscal year. Approximately 40 million citizens now benefit from the insurance umbrella.

In the field of education, the government supports various forms of technical education. It provides the means for the success of the basic education system and provides all required materials for it. The government also seeks to cancel the second and third periods in its schools by speeding up the construction of new schools so as to provide the appropriate educational climate for our sons in the various years of education.

Undoubtedly our sons, the university students -- their education, housing, books, social and athletic activities -- will continue to be the subject of special care by the government.

The policy of scientific research stresses that this research should be an integral part of the production and services issues. To perfect the supervision of the researchers, who are financed by grants from foreign states or international bodies, the government has managed the issuance of a presidential decree organizing these researchers in a way which defines the one responsible for following them up and the quarter concerned with supervising the use of the funds allocated for them and for the purposes for which they have been earmarked.

The prime minister has also issued a decision setting a similar system for the other grants received for purposes other than researchers so as to control these grants.

In the field of emigration and work abroad, the government seeks to benefit from the experience of our emigrant scientists in all fields and to consolidate and strengthen their linkage with Egypt. The government promises to submit the bill on emigration and emigrants during the current session of the august assembly.

People's Assembly Speaker, Esteemed Members: The success of economic and social development depends on improving the efficiency of the administrative machinery. Therefore, the government believes in the importance of reconsidering the existing work regulations, methods and legislation as a way of ensuring the effectiveness of the administrative organs, enabling them to discharge their mission in the best way.

Out of its belief in the need to provide stability for the workers and create an atmosphere of tranquility which would reflect on their performance, the government is keen on adopting all measures which guarantee the same interpretation of the same provision. The next stage will witness great attention to the scientific studies which seek to correct conditions of employment in some public utilities which have direct contact with the public's interests and in some of the public sector's companies, the activities of which do not realize the required goals.

The government believes in the importance of developing the training programs in a way which would ensure a better and more abundant performance by all the state's employees on their various levels and specialization and guarantee that these training programs will become a real addition to their assets and abilities. The employees should emulate the seriousness dictated by these programs. The passing of these programs should be one of the criterea which ought not to be disregarded when nominating somebody for a higher post.

In the cultural fields, the government concentrates on building an Egyptian man who is versed in the history of his country and aware of its civilization and arts. It also concentrates its attention on books and on generalizing their benefits for the broad base of the citizens by providing them at a suitable price. It also seeks to turn the art into a public service for all the people's factions.

In the field of information, television transmission has for the first time reached the city of Al-'Arish. Radio and television transmission will be enhanced to reach the rest of the remote governorates before the end of 1982. The government will also work at boosting the Voice of the Arabs Radio and The Holy Koran Radio with superpower stations so that the voice of Egypt will reach the Arab and Islamic nation clearly.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members; the local governments' assumption of their full powers provided in the law means in reality an application and confirmation of the practice of democracy and the achievement of comprehensive regional development. In order to achieve this aim, your august assembly, during its previous session, approved the new local government law. Emphasis is given to training the popular and executive leaderships of local government on administrative and control methods so as to achieve a better level of performance and to express more accurately the demands of the masses. The local government is also tackling the phenomenon of transgression on the state-owned land in view of the fact that this transgression involves a flagrant exploitation and illegitimate acquisition of wealth. This phenomenon is being dealt with decisively and realistically and within the powers stipulated in the law.

The local government is also adopting projects for the development of 214 local units in a manner that will produce the required model of what the Egyptian village should be like in the fields of production and services.

Mr Speaker, honorable members: These are the broad lines of the principal features of the government's policy in the coming phase. The government will not be able to realize its broad aspirations without joint efforts, determined resolve, sincere advice, an profound sense of responsibility, and complete confidence in the fact that progress in any field cannot start from a vacumm or be isolated from reality. Progress can be achieved through a clear vision of the reality of the problems facing us, a conscious understanding of their dimensions, and a resolute outline of what can be achieved by willpower and a challenging will.

In the name of the great Egyptian people, the government appreciates the armed forces for their task of defending the homeland and its territory, their dedication to preserving the strength and dignity of their nation, and their continued participation in construction, training and education.

May God grant us and you success in everything that brings good for our great people under the leadership of Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the republic who is devotedly overseeing the interests of the people and working to elevate their standing, while we are guided by the sublime values and principles he has advocated. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

'ALI BRIEFS ASSEMBLY ON FOREIGN POLICY

NC221237 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed that Egypt welcomes the restoration of relations with the Arabs. He said that while Egypt welcomes a studied and logical restoration of its brotherly relations with the Arab states. It does not make any conditions for this and at the same time does not accept the imposition of any conditions on it or that any change in its policy, which its people have accepted and endorsed, should be imposed on it.

He pointed out that if, as present, there is disagreement between Egypt and a number of Arab states, this disagreement is among brothers and is bound to disappear, and Egypt will return to its inevitable place in the Arab world. This does not mean that Egypt will change its policy toward peace.

In a statement delivered today in the People's Assembly, 'Ali said that Egypt has also affirmed that its choice of peace is a firm and perpetual choice, and it is the will and decision of its people. Egypt is also an Islamic Arab state by affiliation and fate.

The text of the statement follows:

Mr Assembly Speaker, Honorable Members: In the government's statement to your honorable assembly, which was delivered by the prime minister in this hall last Saturday, his excellency reviewed the basis of the foreign policy which the government is pursuing at this important stage of our national work, and he explained the firm general principles to which the government adheres in the area of our foreign political activity to realize the aims of our country.

In continuation of the government's policy of keeping your honorable assembly -- the representatives of the will and conscience of our people -- informed about everything pertaining to our constant efforts to safeguard the interests of the country, I seek today to speak to you and lay before you a comprehensive picture of what has been accomplished during the past period in the foreign policy area and to shed light on the government's plan for the next, extremely important, stage.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, Egypt shoulders a responsibility that goes beyond its geographical borders by virtue of its unique location and position in the heart of the Arab and Islamic nation, in the forefront of the African peoples' struggles for freedom, and in its capacity as one of the original founders of the Nonaligned Movement. This historic responsibility extends to maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East region and achieving peaceful coexistence among its peoples, including the fraternal Palestinian people. On the basis of this principle we launched our intensive political activity in past months, led with great faith and capability by the president of the republic with his first missions abroad since our people entrusted him with the leadership and its serious responsibilities. By God's grace he acted as the true voice of Egypt and the conscience of its noble people, expressing the aspirations of our great nation and its historic appreciation of its responsibilities toward the area and the whole world.

A few days ago, from 16 to 17 February, the president paid a visit to the Sultanate of Oman, during which his excellency held intensive talks with his Majesty Sultan Qabus on the situation in the Arab area, in particular the Gulf area, the results of the president's recent visits to the United States and Europe, Egyptian-Arab relations, developments in the Palestinian autonomy talks and efforts to achieve a just settlement of the Palestinian problem that would realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

You are aware of the danger inherent in the present security situation in the Gulf area as a result of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the suspect disturbances and alliances which try to cordon off the area for the benefit of foreign forces. This is in addition to the serious repercussions of the Iraqi-Iranian war on the security and stability of the area.

The talks in Muscat provided an opportunity to exchange views on the situation and to get acquainted with the efforts being exerted within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council to strengthen the area's security and ensure its stability and to affirm Egypt's support for the efforts of the Gulf states to enhance their collective capability to defend their joint security. The talks also provided an opportunity to brief the fraternal Sultanate of Oman on recent developments concerning the contacts and talks which Egypt has been undertaking to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East problem that would ensure for the fraternal Palestinian people their right to self-determination, as provided in the Camp David accords. The Omani side affirmed its understanding and support of Egypt's policy and sincere efforts in this area.

As the president's visit to Muscat was his excellency's first visit to an Arab capital after assuming the duties of the presidency, it was natural that the discussions should deal with the Egyptian-Arab relations and the views of both sides on the condition of these relations and the possibility of developing them.

Egypt's view, which was made public by the president on more than one occasion, conformed with the natural feeling of being Arab-affiliated and with the strong responsibility toward the Arab nation's aspirations and aims. At the same time it was in line with the unwavering commitment to peace, toward which Egypt has made good progress, which must be continued so that the peoples of the region, foremost the Palestinian people, may reap its legitimate fruits of security, tranquility and stability.

While welcoming a studied and logical restoration of its relations with its Arab sisters, Egypt -- as I have previously explained -- does not dictate any conditions and consequently does not accept any conditions being imposed on it or any amendment dictated regarding its policy, which its people have accepted and approved.

The visit of the president to the Sultanate of Oman and his discussions with his Majesty Sultan Qabus and the anticipated visit of his majesty to Egypt crown the warm fraternal relations linking the Omani and Egyptian peoples. It consolidates and deepens the mutual understanding and support between the fraternal countries. This (?joint) development of relations between the two countries will have a great effect on developing their interests and boosting Arab interests in general.

Assembly Speaker, Brother Members: The president's visit to the Sultanate of Oman was preceded by a very important tour by the president from 30 January to 8 February 1982.

If this tour can be described in one expression, then it would be possible to say that it was a wide-scale, intensive and influential political move which has achieved all its desired results.

A visit was paid in 9 days to seven capitals which carry weight in international society. These capitals are Rome, the Vatican, Paris, Washington, London, Bonn and Vienna. Lengthy discussions were held with the heads of these states, senior leaders and officials. The information media and the public were addressed to emphasize Egypt's message; that it is a center of peace, stability and equilibrium in the region and the international arena.

The discussions covered political, military, economic and cultural issues. Egypt explained its political line, expressed its interests and submitted its demands in complete frankness and clarity. This method was met with appreciation in these capitals and the response to these demands was rapid and tangible.

Before quickly reviewing the discussions and their results in each capital, I would like first to explain to you the general line, on which Egypt was keen to concentrate during the tour, and the final result.

Egypt has stressed through its president to the leaders of these states and their governments that Egypt's choice of (?peace) is a firm and lasting choice and that it represents its people's will and decision. Egypt is an Arab and Islamic state in its affiliation and destiny. If there is currently a disagreement between Egypt and some Arab states, then this is a disagreement among brothers, which will inevitably disappear so that Egypt may return to its inevitable place in the Arab world. This does not mean that Egypt will change its policy on peace in the area.

Our stand on the autonomy discussions falls within the framework of our commitment to the Camp David agreement and our eagerness to achieve real autonomy for the Palestinians, which would push the entire region to the threshold of a comprehensive and just peace. Egypt has no power to relinquish any of the Palestinian people's rights nor does it agree to participate in the issuance of a declaration of principles which does not carry with it clear opportunities for acceptance and building on it. I am pleased to say that we have sensed an understanding of our view in the various capitals.

Egypt has also emphasized the vital importance of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, mutual recognition and work toward Palestinian participation in the peace efforts.

The role of the United States and the European states is to prevent the parties to the conflict in the area from taking measures or stances that might further complicate or aggravate the situation.

Egypt will not grant any foreign power military bases on its territory. The sole safeguard against threats of intervention and aggression is strengthening the states of the area and increasing their intrinsic economic and military potential. We emphasize our political line within the framework of the Nonalignment Movement and our scrupulous adherence to the safety of the movement and its authentic goals.

In addition to the facts mentioned thus far, Egypt has affirmed its great interest in backing the brothers in Sudan, Oman and Somalia in all fields. Furthermore, Egypt considers this backing a vital basis for safeguarding security and stability in the area.

Mr Speaker, Esteemed Members: The president's visit to Italy achieved considerable success which is, undoubtedly, commensurate with the deep feelings and the traditional friendship which binds the two countries together. During the discussions, an identity of views was established on the Middle East situation and on Mediterranean security. Meanwhile, Italy voiced appreciation of Egypt's foreign policy. On his part, his excellency the president lauded Italy's distinguished role and positive contribution in generating momentum for the peace process in the Middle East as well as Italy's contributions to the peacekeeping force. The discussions have given [mutual] relations enormous impetus, particularly in the economic, military and cultural domains.

At the Vatican, the president met with his holiness the pope. The discussions centered in particular on Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people. The officials at the Vatican reaffirmed their view on Jerusalem and its special status.

Summit meetings were held in France. A review was made of the situation in the region and its possibilities. The French side expressed its full understanding of Egypt's political line as regards the Middle East.

Concerning bilateral relations, the discussions dealt with cooperation in the military field, particularly the conclusion of the Mirage deal. The discussions dealt also with economic cooperation between the two countries. The Egyptian side explained that it was important for France to increase its imports from Egypt to reduce the deficit in the trade balance. It also explained that it was important to establish an Egyptian-French Chamber of Commerce, that France should participate in the Damietta Port Project. The French side's stand on the points raised by the Egyptian delegation was positive.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, the President's visit to the United States was effective and successful by all standards. During this visit the president held intensive talks with the U.S. President, the U.S. vice president, and the secretaries of state, defense and treasury. He met with the Senate and House of Representatives foreign relations committees, U.S. businessmen and U.S. Jewish leaders. He also held a major press conference at the National Press Club.

The Washington talks included a review of strategic conditions in the area and a review of the peace process and its developments. The United States affirmed its readiness to continue playing the role of full partner within the framework of the Camp David accords. The Egyptian side pointed out unequivocally that, given the situation in the area, the achievement of stability in it demanded the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Camp David accords, and it called for a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

During this visit, the U.S. administration agreed to allocate $400 million as a grant within the framework of the military facilities for 1983, which total $1.3 billion. The administration also agreed to provide flexibility and freedom of action in the field of economic aid so that this aid can be used on the basis of sectoral distribution with a view to achieving the best utilization of this aid in a single sector, and that the application of this system would begin this year in four sectors -- electricity, the private sector, local government and technical assistance. It was also agreed to make greater utilization of Egyptian experts in projects financed by the United States.

In Britain, it became clear during the talks there that the British side shared Egypt's concern for the need to settle the Palestinian problem, this being the essence of the conflict and its settlement a necessary precondition for stability and peace in the area.

The president of the republic then held intensive talks in the FRG with leaders of all political views. The talks resulted in an agreement of views on the centrality of the Palestinian issue and the importance of the European role in the coming stage of the Middle East peace process. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive development in the bilateral relations, and the German Government showed a clear interest in giving Egypt top priority in its economic aid program.

At the end of his tour, the president of the republic met at Vienna's airport with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and held talks with him on the Middle East situation, the developments in the peace process and the need to intensify efforts to ease tension in the area and enhance the chances of peace in it.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members, immediately before the start of the president's tour to the United States and Europe, two important rounds of talks were held in Cairo with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on the autonomy talks and the need to give them a push forward. The talks were an opportunity to reaffirm the Egyptian positions on various subjects pertaining to the autonomy as follows:

1. Jerusalem: Egypt affirmed the need that the proposed declaration of principles should state that Arab Jerusalem is a part of the West Bank and that its people should participate in the elections for the Palestinian autonomy authority.

The settlements: Egypt affirmed their illegality, their contravention of the Camp David accords and the need not to encroach upon public property in the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

3. The powers and jurisdictions of the autonomy authority: The Egyptian side has emphasized the need for the elected Palestinian authority to acquire all the jurisdictions and powers that are exercised by the Israeli military government and its civilian administrations in accordance with the Camp David agreement as well as the need for the elected Palestinian authority to enjoy the necessary legislative powers.

4. The size of the autonomy authority: Egypt has also emphasized the importance of electing a council that will represent the inhabitants of the [West] Bank and include East Jerusalem and Gaza. The number of members of this council should be proportionate to the number of inhabitants, who total 1.3 million, provided that this council will elect from its members a mini-administrative council that will assume executive powers.

During the talks with the U.S. secretary of state, Egypt underscored the disadvantage of being bound by a deadline for issuing the declaration of principles because we believe that the salient point is the content of the principles, as the declaration should be acceptable to the Palestinians and realize the interests of all the parties.

The U.S. side to the talks explained that it was convinced of this viewpoint and informed us that a special U.S. representative had been appointed to these talks, Richard Fairbanks, who arrived in Cairo yesterday morning and with whom I have had a session of talks during which we reviewed the progress of the autonomy negotiations, and the problems facing them, preparatory to resuming the meetings of the technical working committees in Cairo on 1 March.

Agreement was also clear on the importance of the Palestinian issue and the fact that it is central to the work of achieving a lasting and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members:

Our bilateral relations with Israel are experiencing tangible development in all fields. Egypt and Israel are faithfully honoring their obligations under the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries. In the period from 17 to 19 January, I held protracted discussions with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon within the context of the work of the higher committee for the arrangement of complete Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai.

An agreement was reached on a number of important questions related to the completion of the Israeli withdrawal. It is important that I should review some of these questions, particularly those relating to our international border. You are aware that the peace treaty stipulates Israel's commitment to withdraw all its armed forces and civilians from the Sinai to beyond the recognized international borders between Egypt and Palestine under [the British] Mandate, which were defined in the 1906 agreement, leaving no room for confusion.

In this respect a technical point of disagreement has arisen between the Egyptian and the Israeli viewpoints in relation to the point at which our southern borderline terminates near [Bi'r] Tabah on the Gulf of Aqaba.

It has been agreed to have the two technical committees continue their efforts within the context of the joint military committee's work to arrive at the right position of the borderline. We explained beyond any doubt that our borders are sacred and not 1 meter of the border should be violated. The joint military committee actually began its work on this matter in Cairo yesterday.

During my discussions with the Israeli defense minister, the subject of the city of Rafah was raised -- the city of Rafah is bisected by the international borderline between Egypt and the Gaza Sector -- a matter requiring certain administrative measures to ensure the interests of all the Palestinian and Egyptian inhabitants of the city, after positioning the border markers on which there is absolutely no disagreement.

The honorable members are aware that Egyptians are living to the east of the borderline, and they own land west of the borderline and vice versa.

The Egyptians have expressed a desire to move to Egyptian territory and the Palestinians residing west of the international borderline expressed a desire to move and live with their relatives and kinsmen in the Gaza Sector. From the start Egypt has shown a deep interest not to burden the inhabitants of the city with any difficulties or to expose their interests to any dangers as a result of the demarcation of Egypt's international border. A study is being carried out now of several Egyptian measures and arrangements which aim at alleviating any damages that the inhabitants of the city may suffer as a result of the measures implemented during the Israeli occupation. These arrangements include possible permission of the exchange of land and upholding the principle of relocation to substitute houses and the principle of compensation. A study is also being carried out on the possible application of the border villages and cities system which is applied in some of the border areas in the world. This system would help the inhabitants of the city on both sides of the border, facilitate movement across the border and the reunion and movements of families. We are very keen on adopting all measures that will make life easier for the inhabitants of the city and safeguard their interests.

During my discussions with the Israeli defense minister, an agreement was reached on dispatching groups of Egyptian technicians specialized in the various fields to southern Sinai as of 25 February to ensure the continuation of the services and utilities after the final withdrawal on 25 April. It gives me pleasure to inform your esteemed assembly that the Egyptian technical teams are now preparing to go to southern Sinai in a few days to prepare for the return of the Egyptian presence to our dear land and for the final Israeli withdrawal on schedule.

This evening I will receive in Cairo Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who will arrive on an official visit to Egypt during which the relations between the two countries will be discussed. This visit will undoubtedly provide a good opportunity for confirming the two sides adherence to the peace process. On our side, we will reconfirm our principled stands on the various issues of common interest to both countries and which we believe must be clarified to preclude any adverse effects on the peace process as a result of a misunderstanding or wrong appraisal.

Mr Speaker, Esteemed Deputies: Egypt's Arab affiliation is not a subject of debate or discussion. Our commitment to stand by the rights of the Palestinians has never been a subject of question or doubt. Our commitment to peace in the area is a firm commitment based on a solid, popular conviction that the only possible hope is to reconcile the interests of the various peoples in the area and that the interests and rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, do not conflict with the right of the Israeli people to live in safety.

Our peaceful relations with Israel have not conflicted with and will not conflict with a clear expression of our view on actions which threaten the area's security and peace, because we believe that peace is a joint responsibility and that comprehensive peace can only be established in an atmosphere of mutual confidence among the various parties concerned. It was on this basis that Egypt adopted its clear principled stand on the Israeli decision to impose Israeli laws, legislation and administration on the land of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights. I had the honor of fully explaining this stand at your esteemed assembly during its session on 19 December 1981 in a way that allows no doubt or interpretation. Our attitude during all the discussions and deliberations held within the framework of the United Nations confirmed entirely with what I announced in the name of the government at your esteemed assembly during this session. You have undoubtedly followed up the development of the discussions at the Security Council and later at the General Assembly, where a draft resolution was presented calling among other things for the severance of the diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with Israel and for its isolation in the various fields. Together with 33 other states, Egypt abstained from voting on the resolution. Our decision to abstain from voting was due to many considerations which we explained very clearly. We also explained at the General Assembly that the draft resolution that was put to the vote contained certain provisions which would not lead to resolving the complex problem in the region, and that it was not the practical way to achieve this objective. The Egyptian delegation strongly emphasized the following points in this respect:

Egypt rejects categorically the Israeli measure in the Golan. The Israeli measure concerning the Golan is illegal, null and void, furthermore, constitutes a violation of the basic principles of international law, particularly the principle of the impermissibility of seizing land by force.

The 1907 Hague Conventions and also the 1949 Geneva Agreement on the protection of civilians in time of war were applicable and continue to be applicable to the Syrian Golan Heights, which Israel occupied in 1967. Egypt calls on Israel to honor its obligations under these agreements under all circumstances.

Israel's disregard of Security Council Resolution 497, which was unanimously endorsed by the council as an expression of the international will, is prejudicial to the attainment of the comprehensive peace to which all of us aspire.

The Israeli decision on the Golan, like the decision to annex Arab Jerusalem, is one of the factors which contributes to the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and constitutes the imposition of a fait accompli.

Egypt believes that the final solution to the Middle East problem must be through negotiations.

The achievement of a comprehensive settlement must be through negotiations in accordance with the principles of the international charter and law, particularly Security Council Resolution 242 with all the basic principles it contains, such as the principles of the impermissibility of seizing land by force, the Palestinian people's right to determine their own fate and to live in peace within secure and recognized borders and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states -- principles which constitute [the basis] of a just peace in the Middle East.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members:

Before concluding my statement to you, I must broach another subject -- for, by doing so, I will have explained a number of questions about which some of the brother assembly members have asked to be enlightened. I will deal with the subject of the opening of the borders between Egypt and Libya to allow 27 Egyptian families to cross over to the homeland. Perhaps I need not allude to the government's consistent eagerness to take every possible measure to ease matters for our citizens who are working in the Arab states and to strengthen their ties with their families at home. However, out of a sense of responsibility and out of eagerness to ensure the safety and security of all the citizens, we hastened to explain that that measure was taken for humanitarian reasons after these families had actually reached the border and that this measure will not be repeated. Our people in their millions have the first and last consideration and the maintenance of the state's security is the responsibility of every citizen and is worthy of sacrifice by all classes of the people, particularly our brothers who are working in Libya. Undoubtedly, the closure of the border with Libya is an extraordinary situation that has been dictated by painful circumstances of which all the honorable members are aware. The government will not tarry to restore normal conditions to the Egyptian-Libyan border once it is sure that those extraordinary circumstances which dictated that situation have disappeared. However, I would like to reemphasize that no negotiations have been held with the Libyan side for opening the borders between the two countries since they were closed.

Mr Speaker, Honorable Members:

Any effective and fruitful foreign policy cannot but be a true and faithful reflection of earnest and sincere internal work. Our Egyptian diplomacy takes pride in being an honest instrument in the whole world of the rejuvenated struggle which our people are waging for the sake of their progress and prosperity on the immortal land of Egypt -- the land which will return to Egypt on 25 April, after 61 days from today, free and integral so that our people may build on it the edifice of their prosperous future, God willing.

PRESIDENT SADDAM HOLDS TALKS WITH CHEYSSON

JN220946 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received here this morning French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson.

Cheysson conveyed to President Saddam Husayn regards from French President Francois Mitterrand.

Established relations between Iraq and France and means to consolidate them in all fields and activities were discussed during the meeting.

President Saddam Husayn and Cheysson exchanged views on different international issues and questions of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary general; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs; and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

The French minister arrived here yesterday on a 2-day visit.

Cheysson Ends Visit

JN221019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) -- French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson left Baghdad for home today at the end of 2-day visit to Iraq. While in Baghdad, the French minister met with President Saddam Husayn and held talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, and Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

In a statement to INA yesterday, the French minister expressed his country's desire to develop and strengthen relations with Iraq in the various domains, particularly in the nuclear field. He added that his visit aims at confirming the continuity of French policy and at following up on contracts already concluded and those which will be concluded between France and Iraq.

Minister Cheysson earlier visited the UAE.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

No 621

JN191558 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA) -- During the past 24 hours, Iraqi forces killed 182 Iranians and destroyed a tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 4 vehicles, 5 observation posts and 2 stockpiles of hardware. Communique No 621, issued by the Armed Forces General Command today, added that Iraqi Air Force planes continued successful raids against enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits before returning safely to base. It added that Iraqi forces clashed with an enemy force in the Bostan sector, killing 153 Persian enemy troops. The other military operations took place in the Mehran, Gilan-e Gharb, Abadan, Shush and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] areas and opposite Iraqi positions in Sayf Sa'd. Iraqi forces' losses were 19 martyrs in all sectors and 1 mortar damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the mericful, the compassionate.

With enthusiasm and courage the victorious Iraqi forces continue their activities in the operational sectors. The following are the results of activities carried out yesterday evening and today.

1. Our forward units clashed opposite their positions with an enemy force in the Bostan sector and pounded it with various weapons, killing 153 and destroying 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 4 vehicles, 2 observation posts and 2 stockpiles of hardware.
2. Our valiant air force planes continued successful raids against enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits before returning safely to base.
3. Our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions in the Mehran area, killing 11.
4. Nine were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
5. Three were killed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayr Sa'd.
6. Three were killed in the Abadan area.
7. Two were killed in the Shush area.
8. One was killed and two observation posts were destroyed in the Khafajiyah area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 182 killed and 1 tank, 2 armored personnel carriers, 4 vehicles, 5 observation posts and 2 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 February 1982

No 622

JN201141 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi forces this morning crushed an organized wide-scale attack by Iranian forces backed by armored vehicles in the Bostan area in the southern sector of the operational sector.

A military communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command stated that in the attack the enemy sustained thousands of killed and wounded, much equipment was destroyed and many elements were taken prisoners.

The Iraqi military communique stated that fierce battles took place last night and the night before in which Iraqi infantry, armored forces, fighter planes and helicopters took part. The communique affirmed that Iraqi units conducted the battle with a brilliant success based on "the spirit of faith and cooperation among all units."

Communique No 622 stated that after Iraqi forces successes in the recent Bostan battles, the enemy brought in new reinforcements and carried out an organized wide-scale attack the night before last which was crushed by Iraqi forces. The enemy repeated its desperate attack last night. The communique added that the enemy was forced to flee leaving behind its dead and wounded on the battlefield.

The communique strongly warned the emblems of deception and atheism in Qom and Tehran that they will pay a heavy price when they decide to carry out aggressions against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Iraq considered the recent Bostan battle that began on 6 February and lasted 7 days as a "battle of vengeance" and President Saddam Husayn, who supervised the battle, said this battle has "a special flavor" because of the crime Iran committed when it executed 1,500 Iraqi POW's taken prisoner after a battle in Bostan at the end of November. The latest Iraqi attack in the Bostan area destroyed Iranian defense lines in the area and enabled Iraqi forces to fully control the area. Bostan village also came under Iraqi fire transforming the area into a no man's land while the Ash-Shib strait come under full Iraqi control.

The Iraqi military believes that the successful Iraqi attack on the Bostan area has destroyed the Iranian dreams of scoring any military gains on the battlefronts.

The Iranians described their first attack as "the biggest conquest." The Iraqi military stress that this evanescent dream shows how far the Iranian rulers can be mistaken and deluded, that Iraqi forces will not budge and that they are capable of reaching any Iranian territory that the Iranians may have regained at the cost of thousands of killed.

The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

After control of the tragets set by the Armed Forces General Command in the recent battle in the Bostan area was tightened, after enemy lines and positions were destroyed and after thousands of the enemy were killed and wounded, then the enemy began to regroup its defeated forces and to bring in fresh reinforcements from the sons of the Iranian peoples, afflicted by deceptive rulers, to lead them once again toward mass murder on the Bostan front where our courageous units were lying in wait for any enemy moves and reinforcements. Completing its reinforcements and troop concentrations, the enemy carried out an organized and wide-scale attack the night of 18-19 which was crushed by our units. The enemy repeated its desperate attack once again the night of 19-20.

This morning, too, the enemy brought in new infantry forces backed by armored vehicles. Fierce and harsh battles were fought during which all desperate enemy attempts and attacks were crushed.

Our units fought with a brillant success based on the spirit of faith and cooperation among all the units. The hero pilots of our fighter planes and helicopters struck and pounded enemy positions, concentrations, equipment and the enemy's land forces forcing the enemy to flee and leave behind killed and wounded on the battlefield. The enemy sustained thousands of killed and wounded, a lot of equipment was destroyed and many elements were taken prisoner. We shall mention known enemy losses in future communiques.

Let the emblems of deception and atheism in Qom and Tehran realize that when they decide to carry out an aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation, they will pay dearly for it. Let them realize that great Iraq will remain lofty and victorious and that it will wrest its rights from the eyes of its enemies, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 February 1982

No 623

JN201733 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Communique No 623 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 February 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

For the sake of Iraq's sovereignty and dignity, the sons of lofty Iraq, armed with the sword of Imam 'Ali, may God be pleased with him and may God honor him, and with the spirit of the principles and faith by which their forefathers triumphed, are fighting the forces of tyranny and oppression in Qom and Tehran until they give up their racism and return our rights to our land and waters. Following is the outcome of military activities last night and today:

1. Bostan sector: known enemy losses counted by official quarters as a result of battles cited in our communique No 622 of today, amount to 3,387 killed and a large number of wounded. Also, many enemy personnel were captured and six tanks and nine armored personnel carriers were destroyed, a large quantity of weapons, equipment and various types of hardware were seized.

2. The hero eagles of our air force continued all day today successful raids on enemy concentrations and units in the southern sector of the operations theater, inflicting grave losses on enemy personnel, tanks and vehicles. All our planes returned safely to base after making 22 sorties.
3. Our helicopters attacked enemy personnel, tanks and vehicles in the Bostan sector, inflicting grave losses. Fires were seen by our ground units. All our helicopters returned safely to base after making 18 sorties.
4. The activities of our units in the other sectors are as follows:

   A. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration in front of their positions in the Mehran area, killing 14.
   B. Five were killed and one tank and one observation post destroyed in the Sumar area.
   C. Six were killed and two stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
   D. Four were killed and one observation post and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Shush area.
   E. Three were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
   F. Two were killed in the Nowsud area.

5. Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 3,421 killed, a large number of wounded and many captured. Also, seven tanks, nine armored personnel carriers and three stockpiles of hardware were destroyed and a large quantity of weapons, equipment and various hardware were seized.
6. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel: 200 martyrs in the Bostan sector and 9 martyrs in all other sectors.
   B. In equipment: five vehicles damaged.

No 624

JN211727 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Communique No 624 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 February 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our armed forces, which believe in the inevitability of victory over the spiteful enemy which encroached on the sovereignty of Iraq and the Arab nation, continue to record the most splendid epics of heroism, gallantry and loyalty to the homeland and nation and their legitimate rights. The results of activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our units clashed with an enemy force opposite our positions in the Shush area, killing 61 and destroying 3 tanks and 4 vehicles, 2 of which were loaded with hardware.
2. Our units pounded an enemy force in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd, killing 26 and wounding many others.
3. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Sumar area. Our forces pounded it with various weapons, killing 16.
4. One of our forward units pounded an enemy force opposite our positions in the Dezful area, killing 16.
5. Eleven were killed and 1 boat burned and sunk in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
6. Three were killed in the Mehran area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 133 killed and 3 tanks, 4 vehicles, 2 loaded with hardware; and 1 boat destroyed.

7. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel: seven martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: one vehicle damaged.

No 625

JN221725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Communique No 625 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 22 February 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant armed forces continued their activites in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today. Following are the results:

1. One of our units pounded an enemy forces opposite our positions in the Bostan sector, killing 19 and destroying 2 vehicles and 1 observation post.
2. Eight were killed and one vehicle, one stockpile of hardware and four observation posts destroyed in the Abadan area.
3. Two were killed in the Shush area.
4. Two were killed in the Mehran area.
5. One was killed and two stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Khafajiyah area.
6. One was killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.
7. Our aircraft today attacked enemy positions and troops in the southern sector of the battlefield, inflicting massive losses before returning safely to base.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 33 killed and 3 vehicles, 3 stockpiles of hardware and 5 observation posts destroyed.

8. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel; 20 marytrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: one personnel carrier and three vehicles damaged.

COMMANDER ON IRAN'S LOSSES IN BOSTAN REGION

JN220937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) -- The commander of the Hittin Forces has declared that the Iranian authorities have thrown more than one military division and several infantry battalions into their abortive offensive on the Iraqi forces in the Bostan region.

In a statement to an INA press team in the Bostan region, the commander said Iranian forces sustained enormous and grave losses representing the highest number of casualties suffered by the Iranian forces compared to any previous battle.

The Iranian offensive was carried out on Thursday and Friday and completely crushed on Saturday morning. The offensive came after the significant military gains scored during the Iraqi forces' 7-day offensive. The Iraqi forces tightened the noose around the strategic pass of Shib and Bostan village and destroyed the Iranian defenses in the area.

President Saddam Husayn has lauded the results of the battles and bestowed on the Hittin Forces commander, Brig Gen Hisham Saban al-Fakhri, and his forces the Military ar-Rafidayn Medal, Second Order.

The Iraqi military commander asserted that Iraqi forces will keep the upper hand in the war and the only option for the Iranians is to recognize Iraq's legitimate rights. He added that his troops were lying in wait for the Iranian counterattack due the painful blow dealt to them in the Bostan region. He described the Bostan battle as a heroic epic that demonstrated the capability of the Iraqi fighter. He said the fedayeen formations of the Popular Army participated in the battle alongside Iraqi forces. The Hittin commander disclosed that the Iraqi forces have buried well over 1,000 dead Iranians, adding that the Iraqi forward units continue to bury Iranian corpses still littering the entire area. Iraq had appealed to the International Red Cross to urge the Iranian Government to bury or remove its dead from the no man's land. Iraq also proposed a limited cease-fire to carry out this humanitarian mission.

In conclusion, the Iraqi commander said that the Iraqi-Iranian conflict is one between two forces: Iraq, which represents right, humanitarian principles and sublime spiritual values; and Iran which represents racism, darkness and a desire for bloodbaths.

CEASE-FIRE PROPOSED TO ENABLE IRAN TO BURY DEAD

JN201815 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) -- Iraq has requested the International Red Cross to urge the Iranian Government to evacuate dead Iranians from the Bostan sector as soon as possible.

In an appeal to the Red Cross tonight, Iraq expressed readiness to accept a cease-fire in the Bostan sector for a certain duration of time to enable the Iranians to evacuate their dead from the no man's land or to bury them for humanitarian reasons.

The Iraqi military communique issued this evening put known Iranian losses in this sector at 3,387 dead.

SPEAKER SUMMONS AMBASSADORS ON JERUSALEM MEETING

JN221356 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) -- Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad today met with Western countries' ambassadors in Baghdad and informed them of the National Assembly's protest against the meeting the Political Committee of the Council of Europe intends to hold in the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem. He indicated that this committee's decision to meet in Arab Jerusalem means an implicit recognition of the Zionist occupation of the city. He added that this decision also encourages the Zionist entity to continue aggression against the Arab nation.

He called on the ambassadors to ask their governments to prevent such a meeting in occupied Arab Jerusalem out of a desire to develop Arab-European relations and to avoid repercussions on the common interests of Europe and the Arab nation.

ANTI-SYRIAN RADIO ON SITUATION IN HAMAH 22 FEB

JN221954 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Hamah -- Hafiz al-Asad's regime today admitted armed clashes are taking place in Hamah by saying that these clashes began on the 3d of this month when opposition forces hanged several state and party officials, a statement claimed. The statement also stressed that opposition forces occupied government centers and the ruling party's offices in the city.

It is noteworthy that, during clashes that between Hafiz al-Asad's forces and the popular resistance in the city of Hamah, thousands of the regime's forces were killed or wounded.

We received reports saying that several funerals for the regime's dead elements in Hamah were held in Latakia after they were brought there secretly.

Further Report

JN222030 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 1950 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Hamah -- Fierce clashes are still continuing in Hamah between the mujahidin and the criminal regime's forces. The mujahidin still control most of the city's suburbs for the 21st consecutive day. There are also clashes in the township of Al-Qaryatayn in Homs Province between the mujahidin and the criminal regime's forces.

JORDAN CITES SYRIAN RADIO ON HAMAH FIGHTING

JN221641 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] For the first time, Damascus Radio has admitted that fighting in Hamah, which began on 3 February, is still continuing.

In its newscast this afternoon, the radio said that fierce fighting is now raging in the city between the opposition and Syrian forces. The radio, however, gave no other details.

The admission by Damascus Radio on the continuation of the clashes comes in wake of a statement by a Syrian Information Ministry spokesman yesterday who stated that calm prevails in Hamah.

The London-based ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT magazine cited Syrian opposition as saying that losses in the fighting between opposition and Syrian forces now total over 4,500 killed and wounded.

SENATE DENOUNCES EUROPEAN MEETING IN JERUSALEM

JN221316 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The Senate session this morning under Senate President Bahjat at-Talhuni discussed the decision by the Council of Europe to hold the next meeting of the council's political committee in Jerusalem at the request of the Israeli Knesset.

The Senate issued a statement which said that the meeting of the political committee of the Council of Europe in Jerusalem is a grave step supporting falsehood and is a big mistake on the part of the Council of Europe against the Arabs. Therefore, the Jordanian Senate denounces such a decision by the political committee of the Council of Europe which claims to be defending human rights and justice.

The Senate's statement added further that the European political committee is ignoring facts, disavowing legitimate Arab rights, fighting peace in Jerusalem and the region and is supporting aggression and falsehood. The committee's aggressive meeting in Jerusalem will not affect our legitimate rights, but rather will affect the stands of its countries.

While honoring the occasion of Jerusalem Day which is observed today as decided by the Arab Parliamentary Union, the Jordanian Senate hails our steadfast kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories, particularly our brothers in occupied Jerusalem.

AR-RA'Y RAPS ISRAELI PROPAGANDA EFFORTS

JN211030 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Feb 82 pp 1, 19

[Editorial]

[Text] The campaign of hatred, lies and falsehoods waged by the Israeli propaganda media against Jordan and its press is not something new or strange. The same media has been spitting its venom and doing anything to cause harm to the Arabs since its establishment. This same media has waged many biased campaigns against Jordan. It has not and will not affect Jordan's pan-Arab commitments toward the Arab cause and the Arab nation, however.

Naturally, the Jordanian press has never and will never pay attention to the Israeli media's indignation regardless of its intransigence and intrigue. Our papers remain an honest voice, relaying Jordan's message and calling on all the Arabs to adhere to pan-Arab unity and pan-Arab action in order to resist the Israeli aggression, and restore the usurped Arab rights.

If the Israeli media has adopted the reported U.S. arms deal as a reason for escalating their campaigns against Jordan and expressing resentment of Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq and good relations with the PLO, these venomous campaigns will not change Jordan's national and pan-Arab commitments to safeguard its land and air space. Jordan knows how to fulfill that commitment regardless of the loud noise of those who threaten.

Furthermore, Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq will continue and strengthen due to our adherence to pan-Arab unity and pan-Arab action. This support, will not be affected by the discord campaigns waged by the Israeli mass media.

The same thing can be said about Jordan-PLO relations. Jordan adheres to the belief that the PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan, which has adhered to its pan-Arab commitment toward the Arab nation under all circumstances and at all times,will never deviate from its clear and firm pan-Arab stand. Jordan will continue the pan-Arab line in which it believes despite the actions of others.

AMMAN DAILY SCORES U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

JN200706 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Feb 82 p 4

[Editorial: "No Thanks, Friends"]

[Text] The continuing desire of the United States to explain its policy in the Middle East only heightens the basic flaws in that policy. Note, for example, the two statements made in the past few days by President Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The president said his plans to deal with the escalating arms race in the Middle East included his support for the Camp David accords and efforts to persuade "moderate" Arabs to join the Camp David process. Mr Weinberger, who because of protocol has to be less perplexing and incoherent than his boss, said that the United States has to extend the hand of friendship to several countries in the Middle East, and not only to Israel. These two men are no doubt sincere in what they say, but they fail to understand that what they propose as the solution to the problem is, in fact, the problem itself. The only constant element in American policy in the Middle East since 1948 has been an unwavering commitment to the existence of Israel, regardless of how much Arab land Israel occupies and how many times it uses American weapons and money to attack its Arab neighbors. For the highest officials of the United States now to assert in harmony that they wish to develop ties with both Israelis and Arabs, while the unresolved Palestine issue remains the only real contentious issue between Arabs and Israelis, is a performance that would warrant a C- at best from a freshman logic course at any university in the United States.

We have recently seen the apogee of American political sophistication in bilateral relations in the disintegration of the shah's regime in Iran. Is the American leadership anxious to see that performance repeated with Arab regimes (or Central American regimes, for that matter) who are willing to deal with the Americans on their own fantasy terms? This is the only logical consequence of what the Americans are doing. If they do not care to see the full reality of it, the people of the Arab world see it very clearly, and thus reply: Thanks, but no thanks.

'ARAFAT HOLDS MEETING IN TRIPOLI; CALM PREVAILS

JN221701 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a meeting in Tripoli this afternoon with Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, executive secretary general of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement's Central Political Council; Col Muhammad Ghanim, director of Syrian Military Intelligence in the Arab Deterrent Forces; Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani] PLO Executive Committee member; Staff Brig Gen Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], director of the Central Operations Room of the joint forces and member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Ma'n Bashshur, representative of the Lebanese Popular Committees and Associations.

The discussions dealt with the means to resolve the situation in the capital of the north and to put an end to all acts leading to tension and restore normal life to Tripoli.

The latest reports received from the north say that the situation in Tripoli is, in general, improving after the joint security forces completed their deployment in the various areas which were scenes of clashes during the last 3 days.

Dr Samir Sabbagh, head of the Lebanese National Movement's Security Council, stated that efforts are being made to draw up a comprehensive security plan to deal with the security situation in the city in a radical and final manner.

Security Measures Implemented

NC221330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The withdrawal of gunmen and the gradual removal of armed manifestations began this morning in Tripoli while calm started to return to the city. It was reported this morning that work has resumed at some government departments and banks. Oil exporting was also resumed at the Tripoli terminal while schools remained closed.

The national news agency correspondent in the north has said that the areas of At-Tall, the southern approach to Tripoli from the direction of Al-Bahsat, and the streets leading to the port witnessed normal movement this morning. However, movement was cautious in some areas such as At-Tabbanah, al-Ba'l Al-'Ali, and Al-Qubbah. Several merchants inspected their stores.

The withdrawal of the armed people and the removal of armed manifestations will be followed by efforts to establish a fundamental security solution.

VOP NOTES ISRAELI MILITARY FORTIFICATION

NC211248 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] In southern Lebanon, sources of the Lebanese National Movement have said that the Zionist occupation forces continue to fortify their positions inside the occupied border strip with equipment and armored vehicles. The sources quoted people arriving from the area as saying that the intensive Zionist military movements indicate that the coming period will witness dangerous developments, particularly after the Zionist forces have deployed their tanks and heavy artillery batteries in various parts of the occupied strip.

Israeli Buildup Continues

JN221646 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] In southern Lebanon the Zionist forces continue to set up military fortifications in the occupied border strip. Reports received from there indicate that the Zionist occupation forces have set up 175-mm heavy artillery batteries on the Al-Labbunah hills overlooking the coast of Tyre. A new Zionist mechanized division also took position in the Bayt Yahun village opposite the two villages of At-Tiri and Kunin.

In another development, Zionist warplanes continued their reconnaissance flights over all southern sectors and Beirut.

PLO, NATIONALISTS DISCUSS ISRAELI 'AGGRESSION'

JN191638 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] The national action coordination committee in southern Lebanon, which includes representatives of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and the Amal movement, met yesterday afternoon to evaluate both the military and political situations in light of a possible aggression against the south. The committee issued a communique which had stated that the necessary measures had been taken to employ all national military forces to face the anticipated aggression.

The communique also discussed ways to deal with the daily problems of the population of the south, which included the need for social services and assistance in remaining on the land.

LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT

NC191735 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Statement issued 18 February in Beirut by the Political Central Council of the Lebanese National Movement -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement realizes that the Zionist enemy may embark on a huge military operation against the south and Lebanon as a whole. This realization is based on the National Movement's observation of the intense Israeli activity on the ground, in the area of mobilization, and of the Israeli media's initiatives in this direction.

In view of these serious circumstances, the Lebanese National Movement finds it necessary to affirm that there is no alternative but to confront the aggression nationally and seriously. The Lebanese nationalists must realize this fact well so they can shoulder the crucial duty resulting from it. While calling on the southern and Lebanese masses to be prepared to defend their land with the rifle, the National Movement, for the sake of strengthening the political awareness of these masses against all the deception campaigns, also finds it necessary to discuss with extreme calm and objectivity some current political theses propagated by some officials and politicians in Lebanon on the issue of southern Lebanon, and to expose the deviation inherent in such theses, be it deliberate deviation or deviation emanating from good intentions:

1. Some persons agree with the political fact that the issue of southern Lebanon is an issue of direct and indirect Israeli occupation of the border enclave and not a problem of an armed Palestinian and Lebanese presence in the national areas of southern Lebanon. These persons also agree that Israel attacked and will attack southern Lebanon to implement its expansionist ambitions and its original plan toward Lebanon, and not as a sudden reaction to the Palestinian presence. However, these same persons, adopting the thesis that Israel should not be given any excuse to attack southern Lebanon, are calling on the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement to make concessions in advance and free of charge in order to embarrass Israel on the international scene with the hope that this will minimize the dangers of aggression against southern Lebanon. It is high time that we say no to this faulty logic, for experience has taught us that the theory of not giving excuses to Israel is a theory that has no final and visible limits.

In the past, these excuses were represented by fedayeen operations, shelling across the Lebanese border and continuation of shooting against the Zionist enemy in the southern area. When the Palestinian resistance and the National Movement actually put an end to these excuses by stopping operations and shelling across the border and fully adhering to the cease-fire, Israel found no difficulty in fabricating new excuses for aggression. The armed [Palestinian] presence in the south has become an excuse. Moreover, the enemy war minister has stated that any fedayeen operation carried out anywhere in the occupied land will constitute a violation of the cease-fire on the Lebanese border, justifying an invasion of southern Lebanon, or perhaps all of Lebanon.

In view of all of this, how can we be asked to accept the theory of not giving excuses to Israel -- a theory which will inevitably lead its propagators to ask us to surrender ourselves and our southern Lebanon to Israel under the slogan of not giving it excuses?

2. In their efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 425 calling for UNIFIL's deployment in the occupied border enclave up to Lebanon's international border, some persons are pinning great hopes on supplementing UNIFIL with units from the Lebanese army, because this -- according to these persons -- will remove Israel's objection to this deployment and will lead to the dismantlement of Sa'd Haddad's state. Moreover, the Lebanese Army units will impose the state's authority on the border enclave.

Therefore, these persons are calling for the army's entry into the border enclave, quickly forgetting past experience in this field. These persons forget that in the past 3 years three army battalions have entered UNIFIL's area of operations with the approval of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian resistance. This entry took place under the slogan of supplementing UNIFIL with Lebanese Army units so that Israel would accept UNIFIL's deployment southward. However, the entry of the Lebanese Army units into UNIFIL's area of operations has not produced any positive result so far. Neither has Israel agreed to the deployment of UNIFIL, supplemented with the Lebanese army, toward Lebanon's international border, nor has UNIFIL been given authority to advance to remove the overt and covert occupation, nor has the Lebanese Army made one step forward. On the contrary, it has become clear that the Lebanese Army, which has never been prepared to adopt a hostile stand toward Israel and its agents, can never be transformed into a force that will confront the occupation or become a tool that will liquidate Sa'd Haddad's state.

How long will some persons continue to ignore these facts and to demand that the Army enter the border enclave? When will these persons ask about the reasons that have prevented and still prevent the regular Lebanese force that is now present in UNIFIL's area of operations from acting toward confronting Israel and its agent Sa'd Haddad?

3. Some persons are using clearer language. They frankly call for UNIFIL's deployment northward and for the Army's deployment in the national areas of southern Lebanon. They believe this will facilitate the process of putting pressure on Israel so that in turn it will allow UNIFIL and the Army to deploy southward. These persons reveal deviation in their thesis about the issue of southern Lebanon. They depict it as an issue of armed Palestinian and national Lebanese presence while the armed Israeli occupation of the enclave as merely a sudden reaction to this presence. Hence, these persons have applied the following formula: Remove the armed Palestinian and Lebanese presence and afterward it will be possible to dedicate efforts to persuade Israel to withdraw and to deal with the problem of Sa'd Haddad.

If we accept this thesis, where will it lead us? The Army that will enter the national areas of southern Lebanon is not a national army hostile to Israel. It is, in fact, a factional and isolationist Army that is synonymous with the Phalangist militia, which in turn is publicly collaborating with Israel. This fact, which we emphasize, cannot be considered a secondary or trivial issue. It means first and foremost that this Army, which they want us to let enter Sidon, An-Nabatiyah and other places, will be sent to southern Lebanon to liquidate the Palestinian resistance and the National Movement and not confront Israel and its agents.

We refuse to be accused by anyone of talking rashly because with great regret we rely on the bitter and harsh fact that the Army which has spawned the phenomenon of Sa'd Haddad will spawn a similar phenomenon in the national areas of southern Lebanon. In other words, the plan for the army's entry into Tyre, An-Nabatiyah, Az-Zahrani and Sidon -- if we accept it -- will achieve one basic aim, which is to strike at the national Lebanese and Palestinian presence. We don't doubt for one moment that the maximum that Israel will accept in return for this is to allow UNIFIL to advance toward Lebanon's international border to cover up the actual Zionist occupation of some positions in the enclave and then to allow the Lebanese state to float [Ta'wim] Sa'd Haddad's state by giving official character to it and remerging the so-called status quo forces with the army units now present in UNIFIL's area of operations. In this way, the aims of the Israeli plan will be fully achieved without the need for an invasion or a military action because all of southern Lebanon will have become a security belt friendly to Israel. This will also cause a change in the equation at home that will put the country under the control of fascism, so that the first achievement by such an authority will be to sign a capitulationist reconciliation with the Zionist enemy.

Will those well-intentioned people who advocate deploying the army to southern Lebanon realize the grave implications of their call and, thus, give up entirely raising the slogan of using the present factional army? This army has received from the Lebanese patriots, both from southern Lebanon and other parts of Lebanon, only pressure to form a patriotic army that is really hostile to Israel. Then, not only will southern Lebanon open its arms to such an army but the entire country will welcome it.

4. Accordingly, the Lebanese National Movement believes that it has the right and is duty-bound to say no with boldness, firmness and determination to any deviant proposal regarding the southern Lebanon issue. No, the Lebanese patriots will not give Israel through peaceful means what it has been unable to wrest through war. The Lebanese National Movement finds that the only option is a serious national confrontation of the southern Lebanon issue on three levels.

First: The official Lebanese authorities are responsible for seeking a UN resolution imposing an overall Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, completely liquidating Sa'd Haddad's statelet and enabling the Lebanese government to extend its political, administrative, military and security control on the occupied border strip after liberating it, in order to deploy the UNIFIL in the south up to Lebanon's international border. The legitimate authorities' responsibilities for fulfilling the requirements of social steadfastness of the people of southern Lebanon in particular and the patriotic masses in general must be fulfilled.

Second: The Arab countries must shoulder their responsibilities for supporting this National Movement's patriotic proposal regarding southern Lebanon on the international level, and toward giving the necessary military and material aid to Lebanon in order to ensure its steadfastness before Zionist aggression.

Third: The Lebanese national forces are responsible for mobilizing all their resources to defend southern Lebanon and Lebanon's destiny. Therefore, the Lebanese National Movement believes that it is dutybound to adopt today the decision of placing its combat forces and its security and social bodies on alert in order to shoulder the duty of joint confrontation together with the Palestinian revolution backed by Syria and all Arab nationalist forces in the face of any Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon. Since the Phalangist militia is seemingly preparing itself to play the role of Israel's fifth column, during aggression on Lebanese territory, the joint forces should be able to defend all their positions in the face of the Zionist-isolationist alliance from northern to southern Lebanon.

AL-WAZZAN FEARS ISRAELI ATTACK AS SINAI PLOY

NC201819 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] In a press statement on Lebanese and Middle Eastern affairs, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that perhaps Lebanon is more afraid of the period before April than after April because of Israel's obvious desire to foil its complete withdrawal from Sinai, or, at least, to compensate for what it views as a loss by launching some adventure somewhere in the Arab world. Southern Lebanon is one of the first Israeli targets, he said.

Al-Wazzan added that the post-April period is fraught with risks, particularly if there are practical steps toward achieving a certain solution to the region's crisis. If we take into consideration that any course toward a just and peaceful settlement is rejected by Israel and that Israel will embark on any adventure to stave off the dangers of peace to it [sentence left incomplete]. Lebanon, regrettably, at present represents the weakest link in the area. This might whet the appetite of Israel, which is beginning to show its fangs more and more often. Thus, the danger of the pre- and post-April stages arises.

Asked about Egypt's return to its Arab role, Al-Wazzan said: Egypt's return to the Arab fold is expected after April. We hope this expectation will materialize. He said the negative and positive wager on whether Egypt's return will take place will be shared by all those who give their views on this issue. He added: We hope Egypt's return will materialize within a framework that will safeguard the rights and Arabism of the Arab people. Foremost of whom are the Palestinian people. You ask me if things will improve if Egypt returns, and I maintain that is there no worse situation than the present since Egypt has been absent from the Arab arena. He asked: Is there any better situation for Israel than this in which Egypt has been isolated from its kinfolk, environment and its natural arena?

HADDAD RAPS SYRIA, SUPPORTS UN FORCES IN SOUTH

NC200749 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Commander of free Lebanon Major Haddad has commented on certain current issues saying:

1. What is happening in Syria is God's act of revenge on the Syrian rulers for the crimes they have committed against Lebanon and the Lebanese. Here, we dare say, that the Lebanese have succeeded in transferring the battle from Lebanon to the heart of Syria, and what will come will be greater.

2. We ask all the Lebanese in occupied Lebanon not to be deceived by the propaganda spread by the swindlers [Palestinians] and their lackeys on Israel's intention to attack Lebanon, because their claims are not based on reality at all but are made to (?hide) the failure of the swindlers to carry out any military activities against Israel up to now. In any case, if an attack is launched by Israel and by us it will not be directed against the Lebanese but against the swindlers alone. If the swindlers are so afraid, then they only have to withdraw from the south and, consequently, leave all Lebanon for the rich and vast Arab states.

3. We support the strengthening of the UN emergency forces in the south by 1,000 men, hoping they will be able to cleanse their area of operation from the swindlers and provide effective protection for the Lebanese inhabitants inside this area. On the other hand, we support the demand of the chamber of deputies speaker, Kamil al-As'ad, whose term has ended, for the deployment of the international forces and Lebanese Army in An-Nabatiyah and Tyre. We add that this deployment should include Beirut as well.

SARKIS MEETS SOVIET ENVOY ON UN TROOP VOTE

NC221541 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis today discussed with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov Moscow's stand on Lebanon's insistence at the Security Council that tomorrow's resolution contain the necessary measures guaranteeing that the objectives of Resolutions 425 and 426 will be achieved, that effective state control will return to the south and that the Lebanese position will be strengthened in the face of the Israeli plan.

As Ambassador Soldatov was leaving, he answered a number of questions posed by newsmen. Asked what the final Soviet stand was on increasing by 1,000 the number of the UN emergency forces in the south, he answered: As we recall, we have explained to you the Soviet stand on the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon. Ever since the beginning, our stand on these forces has been that their basic goal when they entered the south was to provide reassurance and to guarantee security in Lebanon to prevent Israeli attacks against it.

Asked what the Soviet stand would be in the event war breaks out between Israel and Syria, he answered: We believe that Israel will not embark on such aggressive actions either against Syria or against Lebanon.

He was also asked: Two days ago the Soviet TASS agency published information indicating that an Israeli attack on the south was likely. He answered: The entire world press, not just TASS, published these reports. We believe that if Israel were to embark on such an aggressive step against southern Lebanon, then that will create an extremely dangerous situation. The Soviet Union's stand on this is very clear: We oppose any aggression by Israel against the Arab countries.

Today's meeting with Ambassador Soldatov comes within the framework of a series of contacts which Lebanon is conducting with the Security Council member states in this regard. President Sarkis recently met with U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon within the same framework. Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has discussed this subject with the French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON LINK TO 'RIOTS' IN HAMAH

NC222150 Paris AFP in English 2127 GMT 22 Feb 82

[By Antoinette Chalabi]

[Text] Damascus, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Syria, through its official media, today acknowledged for the first time the existence of "riots" since February 3 in the northern city of Hamah.

The daily TISHRIN newspaper, close to the government, commented today on the coincidence between "the lying propaganda campaign launched against Syria (on the situation in Hamah) and attempts to prolong the riot in this city".

Last Thursday, TISHRIN charged that the United States' administration, "by concentrating its attacks against Syria since the beginning of this month, is giving the impression that an insurrection against the progressive Syrian regime was taking place in the city."

MONTE CARLO ON CONTINUED RESISTANCE IN HAMAH

JN230446 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The ruling Ba'th Party in Syria has announced that fiery battles are still raging against the absconder Muslim Brotherhood. Yesterday, the Syrian press admitted for the first time that Hamah is still the scene of wide-scale disturbances which began on 3 February. According to the latest information supplied by various sources, security and armed forces are in control of most suburbs in Hamah, although some pickets of resistance are still holding out in some suburbs of the old city.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CABLES OF SUPPORT FROM HAMAH

Ba'th Party Branch

JN220723 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Feb 82

["Text" of Hamah Ba'th Party branch's cable to President Hafiz al-Asad -- date not specified]

[Text] Our leader and comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic: In the early hours of Wednesday, 3 February 1982, the people of Hamah woke to the sounds of conspiracy hatched by the enemies of God, Islam and the homeland and implemented by the Muslim Brotherhood gang, the agent of Israel and U.S. imperialism. Prompted by black hatred for the people, the conspirators opened fire from mosques and some city streets at the homes of citizens and anyone they came across on the streets. They annihilated entire families -- men, women and children -- and savagely killed citizens who would not open their doors so their homes could be used as dens for treason. They pounced on our comrades while they slept peacefully in their homes. They also killed their women and children and desecrated the bodies of the martyrs on the main streets, motivated by the black hatred of rabid dogs. They showed a complete lack of all values, morals and divine teachings, which they used as a cover for their crimes before the simpletons of our good people.

Our party and security organs, which have suffered a great deal from the crimes of the Muslim Brotherhood gang, remained calm at first out of a sense of patriotism and revolutionism, guided by the morals of the Arab cavalier and inspired by your patience and wisdom. However, they persisted in their crimes. The Ba'thist fighters were thus compelled to defend themselves and their families, the masses of the people and the cause of the homeland. They taught the criminal murderers and their sympathizers a lesson, which silenced them forever. They brought back smiles to the faces of innocent children and mothers and guaranteed the security of the homeland and the citizen.

Our Great Leader, the people of this province have suffered a great deal from the crimes of the Muslim Brotherhood gang. They disrupted the city's economic life by burning down stores, plundering public establishments and assassinating doctors, intellectuals, scientists and men of religion, elite people who believe in their homeland and Arabism. Thus, our comrades struck at them with the force of justice and the logic of the revolution as well as with the support of God and the people.

The criminal wave receded from the very first hours of the emergence of the rancorous conspiracy. We hunted them down and then pursued their remnants. Hell shall be their abode.

Comrade Leader, Hamah cannot but be a Ba'thist city and the stronghold of Arab steadfastness. We pledge to you and to God and the homeland that we and the people shall remain faithful to the principles of the Ba'th Party. We believe in our people and shall strive to safeguard their security, religion, freedom and interests. We will continue to firmly and resolutely wield the big stick of justice against all the enemies of the people and our hearts will remain open to all patriots who believe in the people's right to a respectable life and the soil of this homeland. We will always strive to consolidate our domestic front, inspired by your wise leadership, faith in the people and love for them. We will always be guided by your revolutionary course in building the glory of this nation. Glory and immortality to our message.

[signed] Leadership of the Ba'th Party Branch in Hamah

Muslim Clergy

JN222036 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1842 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following cable from the Muslim clergy in Hamah:

The Muslim clergymen in Hamah strongly condemn the filthy criminal acts of the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang which hid under the cover of religion, took advantage of its name and tolerance and put on its pure image in a hapless attempt to mislead and deceive innocent and good hearted citizens. Islam is innocent of this gang and its ugly crimes. The guidance of the honorable Koran and the wisdom of its great verses offer the best proof that Islam is totally innocent of the members of this vicious, criminal and treacherous gang, which has tried to defame the blessed religion and take advantage of its tolerance and purity by committing the ugliest and most unprecedented crimes.

He who kills children, elders, women and innocent ones in the name of religion is not a Muslim. Islam remains loftier than those who try to defame its image, particularly if they are a group of vicious persons who collaborate with colonialism and betray their homeland. Islam has never called for committing murders, deceiving or betraying. Islam is the religion of tolerance, love, purity and good treatment.

We declare to the public that the elements of the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang are apostates, traitors and agents. Islam is completely innocent of these elements and of their ugly crimes. We demand that they be eliminated. The crimes of this gang in Hamah are an attempt to create sedition upon the instruction of colonialism and its agents. May God curse those who try to spark sedition. Islam has never known division and sedition.

The barbaric criminal acts of the elements of this gang have caused harm and brought woe to all the innocent citizens whose sole mistake was to refuse any cooperation with the members of the treacherous gang.

We praise President Hafiz al-Asad's wise and valiant policy and demand that all measures and arrangements be taken to eliminate the members of this gang, who have betrayed Islam, the people and the homeland. The Muslim clergymen announce that they are ready to carry out their national duties and praise the daring stands of all the honorable citizens who have confronted the members of this treacherous gang.

[signed] Shaykh Ahmad Sultan, Shaykh al-Awwad

Local Administration

JN222200 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following cable from the executive office of the local administration in Hamah Province:

The executive office of the local administration in Hamah Province condemns the plot woven by U.S. imperialism against our homeland and implemented by the Muslim Brotherhood gang, the agent of colonialism and Zionism. This gang carried out criminal acts in the city of Hamah by attacking our innocent comrades in their homes, killing women and children and burning public establishments.

These acts are the best proof of their spite against our homeland and people. Yet, our comrade party members and security organs faced the criminals with the courage and the boldness they learned from their leader Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. Our comrades will not rest until they eliminate the last agent in this homeland.

Mr President: We have all learned from you how to be courageous and wise. Our people will always be with you to strike at all treason and plotting against our homeland. This people will remain honest and faithful to their leader and to their march until they achieve our objectives of unity, liberation and socialism.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADER ON HAMAH CLASHES

PM221149 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Feb 82 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Sa'id Ramadan: Revolution Is Comprehensive, Not Confined to Muslim Brotherhood Alone"]

[Text] Dr Sa'id Ramadan is the leading thinker of the Muslim Brotherhood movement and general secretary of the Jerusalem Islamic Conference. He lived in Syria for several years and has visited Hamah many times. To a question by AD-DUSTUR about Syria, he said:

"I would like to remind you what the Islamic front declared through its leader, namely that what is happening in Syria is a jihad waged by a Muslim people against whom aggression is being committed and in a state of self-defense against a gang that actually represents no more than 5 percent of the population.

"Some 4,000 Muslim men and women have so far been massacred in Hamah. The facts about this atrocious massacre are worse than reported by the international media, which are trying to distort the situation in the regime's interest.

"I would like to say that the most important thing to be noted is the fact that there is a deliberate attempt by Zionism and imperialism to appear to be sympathizing with and supporting the mujahidin, but all this is not true. They are also trying to show that the war in Syria is between the Muslim Brotherhood and the authorities, when in fact the war is between all the people of Syria and a faction that does not represent them.

"It must be borne in mind that the alternative to the present regime in Syria when it falls -- and it is bound to fall, since that is only a matter of time -- is a new regime which all those in opposition will participate in establishing."

BA'TH PARTY ISSUES UNITY ANNIVERSARY STATEMENT

JN211936 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus -- The Ba'th Party National Command issued a statement today on its 22 and 23 February anniversaries in which it said: The establishment of Egyptian-Syrian unity was a great event in the Arab nation's history because it embodied the unity concept realistically and practically.

The Ba'th Party National Command calls on the Arab people at this particular phase in our history to benefit from the landmarks of our history and the great significance of this anniversary. Our party has always affirmed that Arab solidarity as we want it, is solidarity against the nation's enemies, solidarity in the face of U.S. imperialism and world Zionism. Our party has always called and is still calling for any unity between any two or more Arab countries because any such unity will of necessity be a progressive and pan-Arab move.

The Ba'th Party, which formulated its theory through the Arab nation's aims and defined its principles through the aspirations of the Arab masses and their suffering, has placed Arab unity in the forefront of its aims, hence Syria's response to tripartite unity, our initiative to call on the Baghdad rulers to establish a union between Syria and Iraq and our response to the unity call of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from Tripoli. Before that, our pan-Arab principles and stands defined our path of struggle vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause and dictated to us the duty of sending our armed forces to fraternal Lebanon in order to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities. On behalf of our party and people we pledge to the Arab nation's masses to remain faithful to the call for Arab unity and to struggle to realize it.

All the decisions we have made were dictated by the desire to preserve the Arab nation's interests, unity and future. We call on the pan-Arab and revolutionary movements and parties in the Arab homeland to revise their principles, programs and methods of struggle with the aim of making the motto of Arab unity their main slogan and their most sublime aim.

On 23 February, our party was able to get rid of the rightist leadership which had almost succeeded in paralyzing it and isolating it from the Arab masses. This rightist leadership was later able to take power in Baghdad in 1968. Events that followed 23 February proved to those who did not accept this at that time, that this leadership represented the dubious right wing in the party and that their expulsion was a great victory for the party which returned to the heart of the masses, shouldering, and committing itself to the people's aims.

Recently, the truth about them was revealed when Syria, under the leadership of struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, the party's secretary general, began gathering the Arabs and mobilizing their resources in order to face the Camp David plot. The Baghdad rulers began plotting against Arab Syria in order to force it to abandon its stand, to strike at its steadfastness and to divert it from its honorable pan-Arab battle against the Zionist enemy and the new imperialist alliance established by the United States and including Egypt, the Zionist enemy and the United States itself. They sent their agents and gave the largest possible amount of money and arms to the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang in order to force Syria to abandon the road of steadfastness and confrontation against the great plot aimed at the presence and future of the Arab nation. Our people stood against this gang and were able to crush the plot and the plotters.

The blood shed by the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang will continue to be a curse which will remain throughout history a blot in the face of the Bagdad rulers and a proof of their agentry and plots, not only against our people and country, but also against the Arab nation. Our people and country are shouldering their responsibility in defending the Arab nation's interest, existence and future.

The Baghdad rulers have not been able to forge their real identity as one of the links in the rightist and imperialist circles of influence in the Arab region. The Iraqi-Iranian war is clear proof of their dubious stand. The Iranian revolution confronted U.S. imperialism and was able in 1 year to rub the nose of the United States in the dust. The Baghdad rulers announced a war against Iran, armed conflict in the region began and the resources of the two countries started running out in the interest of our enemies. The Iranian revolution announced that it would fight Zionism and Israel at the side of the Arab nation. It announced that it would no longer be used as a policeman to guard imperialist interests in the Arab Gulf. It announced that it wanted to deal with its Arab neighbors in the best possible way and in accordance with the principles of good neighborliness and yet, armies were sent to Iran and war broke out between the two countries.

The U.S. imperialist dream was not realized through the Iranian-Iraqi war. Now they are expanding the war by recruiting Jordan and some other Arab states. Thus, in only 2 years, the United States and world Zionism were able to involve the Arabs in a war in which the Arab nation has no interest. We warn the Arab nation against the consequences of this serious involvement, which threatens to open a wide front along the entire Arab Gulf in order to further drain Arab resources and avoid the main battle with the Zionist enemy.

The statement affirmed that the means of the nation's strength is inherent in its unity and in its readiness to sacrifice on the path to realize the nation's aims. Syria, under the leadership of the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, struggling Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, will continue carrying the banner of struggle in defense of the Arab nation and its aims.

AL-BA'TH DENOUNCES EUROPEAN'S JERUSALEM MEETING

JN231030 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Feb (SANA) -- The newspaper AL-BA'TH has condemned the decision of the political Committee of the Council of Europe to meet in Jerusalem. In today's editorial, the paper adds that this decision is hostile to the Arab nation's sovereignty and national and pan-Arab rights. It is also actual participation in the Zionist expansionist policy at the expense of the Arab territories. The paper describes the decision as being official recognition of the legality of the Zionist occupation of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. AL-BA'TH says the Arab reply to Western Europe should go beyond the issuance of statements and protests and effective measures should be taken. AL-BA'TH says that mere statements will not deter Western Europe or force it to give up its new Mideast policy -- the policy which has practically come to being after the socialists' assumption of power in France.

MINISTER AL-KHATIB RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN230527 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Syrian Religious Trusts Minister Muhammad al-Khatib yesterday received Soviet ambassador in Damascus Vladimir Yukhin. The ambassador reaffirmed the Soviet Union's support for Syria and the Arab nation's rights.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM CPCZ'S BILAK

JN230856 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Feb (SANA) -- Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, has received a message from CPCZ Secretary Vasil Bilak. The message was conveyed by the CSSR ambassador in Damascus during his meeting with Comrade al-Ahmar yesterday on his assumption of duties. Friendly talks on relations between the Ba'th Party and the CPCZ were held at the meeting.

BEGIN CRITICIZES U.S. 'PLAN' TO SELL JORDAN ARMS

TA221623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel will react immediately if one of its citizens is killed in a terrorist action. He also called on France to mind its own business and look after its autonomy problems in Corsica instead of problems in the territories. He was speaking in an interview with a Colombian television station. The prime minister repeated Israel's opposition to the sale of F-16 fighters to Jordan and said that those aircraft could get to Tel Aviv from Jordan within seconds. On the U.S. plan to sell sophisticated weapons to Jordan, Mr Begin said: It appears that they have kicked us in a place I cannot describe exactly, but it is a long way from the head.

ALIGNMENT CONSIDERING JOINT DELEGATION TO U.S.

TA221849 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The Labor Alignment Executive has set up a special committee to consider the prime minister's proposal for a joint parliamentary delegation to the United States to campaign against U.S. arms sales to Jordan; but there is significant opposition to the idea from within Labor. Ruth Blaukopf reports:

At least two members of the committee, headed by party leader Peres, are known to oppose the idea of the joint Likud-Labor delegation: MAPAM's Victor Shem-Tov and Abba Eban want to leave the task of propounding government policy to the government. Yitzhaq Rabin, who has just returned from a trip to the United States, is refusing to talk about the issue. Also on the committee are Moshe Shahal, Shulamit Alone and Hayim Bar-Lev, all of whom will have to take into serious consideration the views of party colleagues who are not members of either Labor's Executive or the special committee. Among these number such opponents of the idea as Dani Rosolio and Eliyahu Speiser, whose voices will carry some considerable weight in the consultations. But why all the opposition? After all, the Labor Alignment did vote with the government against the arms to Jordan issue. I put the question to Abba Eban:

[Begin recording] [Eban] The Jordan Government hasn't asked for these arms; the United States hasn't decided to give them. I think it would be somewhat grotesque under these conditions for a Knesset delegation formed of two parties to arrive there, on its own invitation, and to start talking in different styles and tendencies. The whole thing is absurd. I really think we ought not to make ourselves ridiculous.

[Balukopf] Given the kind of action replay that we're seeing over arms to an Arab state, it looks as if it might just be another AWACS. What kind of role do you see for the opposition to prevent this? Last time we were caught, perhaps, a little bit off guard?

[Eban] I think our best line is simply to tell the truth, to say we're against it, to be against it; we put a lot of weight behind our opposition to the AWACS deal. When the last Knesset bipartisan delegation was in the United States, an article by me against the AWACS deal and Saudi Arabian plans appeared in the New York TIMES, but in the same New York TIMES there was a statement by Professor Arens, that there was some progress in the Saudi Arabian plan and the next day he said that, although there was progress, they also wanted to liquidate the state of Israel. I think we should appear in our own image, in our own identity, in our style, through our own contacts and say what we think is the truth. [end recording]

[Blaukopf] The special Labor Alignment committee begins its deliberations tomorrow.

DAVAR: THE JORDANIAN CHALLENGE TO WEINBERGER

TA221537 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Feb 82 p 7

[Yehoshu'a Tadmor commetnary]

[Text] Very soon, Jordan will likely receive most of the arms it desires, including mobile missiles and modern aircraft, but for the moment it looks as though King Husayn is hesitating. He has not yet submitted to Secretary of Defense Weinberger any official request for the purchase of U.S. arms, without which the Pentagon cannot draw up the necessary documents for discussion and decision at the White House and on Capitol Hill. At the same time, there is no doubt that Husayn wishes to tie Jordan strategically to the U.S. arms sources. It is convenient for him to have some Soviet missiles for the purpose of maneuvering and extorting, but he knows very well how to walk the tightrope and will not go far in depending on Moscow.

On the other hand, Husayn is not a hundred percent sure of the United States, not even of the incumbent administration or Weinberger, who had deeply impressed him with his sincere desire and readiness to fight against the pro-Israeli pressures in Washington. The fact that the Jordanian request has not yet been submitted proves this. Despite some persuasive efforts by Weinberger's messengers and other U.S. administration representatives, Husayn is again assessing the situation. Immedately after the critical Israeli reactions to the declarations made by the "senior official," and after a host of senators protested the secretary's sorry slip of the tongue so greatly highlighted by the U.S. correspondents who accompanied him in his Middle East tour, Husayn and his government concluded that Israel's long arm stretches to every nook and cranny in the United States. Jordan reacted sharply, directing its sting against Israel. It criticized the "Israeli - U.S. lobby" that controls Washington, as well as "Israel, which is jeopardizing U.S. interests in the Middle East," and more statements along this vein.

Anyone closely following the Jordanian reactions in this affair could see that even though Jordan reacted sharply, it does not believe that the war is lost. The reactions are supposed to be provocative, as though the Jordanian rulers ask Weinberger personally and the U.S. administration in general: Are you capable of carrying out your policy, or is Israel a millstone around your neck, dictating to you what your interests are?

The very fact that Jordan has not yet submitted the request shows that it wants to challenge the U.S. secretary of defense, trying to show that although he had concluded things in principle in Amman, he cannot now measure up to his word. If it was agreed in Amman that Jordan would submit the request at once but Jordan has been putting this off this is thus turning the entire matter into a public issue; it embarrasses Weinberger and forces the administration and the President to face the problem and make a decision.

This is the objective of the entire network of publications. This is cautiousness on the part of Jordan, however, along with the desire to avoid a faulty move after the deal with the Soviets is canceled -- this being part of the agreement. Rather, the intention is to apply pressure on the leaders of the U.S. administration to signal Jordan. Only then would the monarch and members of his Cabinet decide to submit the request.

Judging by the most recent remarks by Secretary of State Haig, Secretary of Defense Weinberger and the President himself, then clearly the United States will decide in favor of the deal with Jordan even sooner than many people in Jerusalem tend to believe. Suffice it to mention the precedent: the deal with Saudi Arabia. When a Republican administration decides to effect a shift, it carries it out strongly and determinedly, even though it wraps the bitter pill with a lot of sweet appeasing statements. The financial interests of the large arms manufacturers, and the demands of the petrodollars dictate to Washington a new policy toward Jordan in particular and toward the entire Middle East in general.

Beyond the overall considerations, the United States has been showing a special attitude toward Jordan, even if this is not manifest in agreements or extraordinary moves. One must bear in mind that each time Husayn's throne began to rock, Washington took pains to salvage him, whether with Israeli help or with the aid of other elements.

Washington believes Jordan and Husayn's regime are a cornerstone for stability in the region. The Jordanian Army is strong, and since Washington believes Jordan will one day contribute toward the solution of the Palestinian problem in the West Bank, it does much to strengthen Husayn. The Saudis, who also regard Jordan as a constant and important ally, have been encouraging Washington to do so, too.

The United States is aware of Husayn's concerns and fears of the Syrian threat -- which oftentimes was not real -- and his apprehension about what would soon happen in the West Bank and Israel, of his fears of the Palestinian-PLO element and more. But more than anything else, Iraq and the war there worries the United States. At the time, Husayn signed a pact with Iraq to counter the Syrian threat, but now Iraq is in bitter straits. The end of the war is not in sight, nor is the domestic situation good. Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn is caught between various constraints and is even prepared to make almost unconditional peace with Iran. But the Iranians are not prepared for this. He called on "the little king" to help him. If the Iraqi strongman had received a Jordanian division or constant Jordanian air support -- the Jordanian Air Force's level being far higher than that of his Iraqi counterpart -- let alone help in the shape of air force reinforcement [as published], he would have been very grateful. But Husayn is wavering. He wants to avoid risks and the erosion of his armed forces in the deserts stretching all the way down to the Shatt al-'Arab. He also knows that most Jordanian citizens would strongly oppose such a move.

He therefore is settling, for the moment, with the dispatch of volunteers to Iraq, though this is naturally not in accordance with what Iraq expects of him. Also, Husayn has been encumbered by a great fear of what the east might have in mind, and each visit of his to Baghdad results in frustration, let-downs and still greater apprehension. Iraq could one day, after some shake-ups at home, constitute a real threat to him -- and who can predict what might happen in Iraq after this sorry war, and who knows what this war would entail for Jordan? This, together with the "threat" from Israel, is what Husayn is staking and he will surely not emerge empty-handed, unless Israel decides it is not prepared to have this on its eastern border and intends to put everything to the test.

MA'ARIV REACTS TO SECRETARY OF STATE'S REMARKS

TA211248 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 82 p 5

[Moshe Zaq commentary: "The Arms Merchants"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has again tried to soothe us. After the Washington POST last Friday published his remarks in a candid talk with his aides on 18 January expressing pessimism regarding the peace process between Israel and Egypt after 26 April, Haig yesterday reverted to an optimistic line concerning the future of relations between Israel and Egypt.

Indeed, Israel and the United States had both assumed that Egypt would persevere in the peace process with Israel even after the final evacuation of the Sinai since everyone had determined that Egypt had taken the road of peace with Israel not because it wanted to quit the Arab front but because it wanted to reach the U.S. arms reservoirs; and President as-Sadat had concluded that he would not be able to reach this target without establishing peace with Israel.

Now that the United States has opened its arms depots to the Arab countries opposed to the peace treaty with Israel, President Mubarak may arrive at an opposite conclusion -- namely, that the peace with Israel, on which his predecessor, President as-Sadat, had based his policy as a prerequisite for understanding with the United States, is superfluous. This conclusion might freeze the peace process in the Middle East.

In a previous talk on 4 January, also disclosed by the Washington POST, the U.S. secretary of state said that "the dangerous situation in the Middle East is the result of the kicks we dealt to Israel." That was a correct evaluation of the dangerous situation.

The public punitive measures the administration imposed on Israel in the wake of the Golan Law were designed to encourage Arab rejectionists to enter a dialogue with Israel on the matters in dispute; however, these measures encouraged various countries in both West and East Europe to resume their race to arm the Arab countries.

"The French do not have enough weapons to satisfy the appetites of the Arab countries," Alexander Haig noted in that talk in Washington, but the French think otherwise. French Minister of External Relations, Claude Cheysson frequently tours the Arab countries -- with promises to support a Palestinian state -- in order to explore their pockets for possible purchases of French weapons; the same holds true for Britain's Lord Carrington. Referring to these dangerous arms deals of the European countries, the U.S. secretary of state noted in the talk with his aides: "Considering Arab resources and the interference of the European countries through their arms deals, we must see to it that the Egyptians remain involved in the peace process." Yet, what is the U.S. administration's reaction on this point? The acts of the administration are incompatible with Haig's remarks and it has entered into competition with the European countries for selling weapons to the so-called "moderate" Arab countries opposed to peace between Israel and Egypt.

In February 1981, during the debate in Washington on "the billion dollar deal" between the United States and Saudi Arabia, the administration officials promised Israel that the principle of maintaining Israel's qualitative superiority over the Arab countries would also be kept in the future. Mention was made at that time of compensation to the tune of $600 million which would enable Israel to purchase more sophisticated equipment to maintain the qualitative superiority. This promise was reiterated time and again throughout the debates at the U.S. Congress on the deal for the AWACS and the auxilliary equipment for the F-15's. Once the Saudi deal was approved, however, the promises were all but forgotten and nothing practical was awarded in exchange.

There are those who say that the additional equipment for the Saudi F-15's necessitated additional aircraft of this type for Israel. Israel would certainly prefer not to resort to this arms race, which increases its dependence on U.S. aid. Now it is the same store all over again. If mobile Hawk missiles and F-16's are sold to Jordan, the United States will maintain the qualitative superiority. The significance of this promise is that in spite of everything, the Pentagon experts will decide that Israel will maintain its qualitative superiority.

It is easy for the U.S. administration to hide behind the claim that the issue of modern weapons to Jordan is not relevant at the moment because Jordan has not yet submitted an official request to purchase mobile Hawk missiles or F-16's. Israeli opposition in the wake of the proposed sale will probably encourage Jordan to submit such a request in order to compete with Israel in the Washington arena. Even without an official recess however, the United States has a means of influencing Jordan to buy this type of aircraft. For years, a joint U.S.-Jordanian military committee has been meeting every 6 months to discuss the needs of the Jordanian Army and the coordination of their activities in Oman, where Jordanian pilots -- in coordination with the United States -- keep watch on the Hormuz Strait.

These joint meetings did not prevent the Jordanian chief of staff on one occasion from going to a meeting in Washington directly from Moscow where he had been discussing the purchase of Soviet weapons. And U.S.-Jordanian cooperation in September 1970 against the coordinated Syrian-Soviet offensive did not prevent the Soviet representative in Amman from demanding that the Jordanian Government joint the war against Israel in the Yom Kippur War.

In any case, Egypt is aware of these ups and downs in Amman and it has realized that they do not deter the U.S. administration from courting Jordan with the supply of modern weapons. This does not encourage Egypt to persevere on the road to peace, a very tough road in the Arab world. Hence, Alexander Haig's conclusion that the situation in the Middle East is dangerous because of the kicks the United States has dealt to Israel.

JORDAN EXPELS ENTIRE SYRIAN EMBASSY STAFF

TA231012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The Jordanian Government last night expelled the entire staff of the Syrian Embassy in Amman. This is reported by reliable Arab sources in the Jordanian capital. The Jordanian Government did not officially announce the expulsion. According to the sources, the decision was made following consultations held yesterday between King Husayn and Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Our Arab affairs correspondent, Aharon Barne'a, says that this is the most serious development in the deterioration of Syrian-Jordanian relations, which have for months now been in a serious crisis.

Radio Comments

TA231147 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1115 GMT 23 Feb 82

["Midday Newsreel" report by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a]

[Text] The expulsion of the entire staff of the Syrian Embassy from the Hashemite kingdom is undoubtedly the most serious development in Jordanian-Syrian relations. For many months, the two countries have been embroiled in a serious crisis. Since November 1980, when Syria began concentrating massive armed forces along its Jordanian border, the two former eastern front allies have exchanged extremely serious accusations. The atmosphere in Damascus-Amman relations has recently heated up, particularly against the background of Syria's accusations that Jordan had extended vast aid to the members of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood, especially during the recent events in the town of Hamah. The Syrian media spared no time or words in strongly condemning both the Jordanian monarch and his ally, Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn. This has been true since Damascus admitted the public uprising in Hamah.

On the other side of the barricades, last month Jordanian intelligence elements discovered instances of direct Syrian diplomatic interference in violent subversive actions within the kingdom. This followed an explosion that occurred in a shop in the center of Amman. The Jordanian Government blamed the second secretary in the Syrian Embassy in Amman for it, and ordered him out of the country. A few days after that, a serious fire occurred near Dar'a along the two countries' common border, in the course of which several Syrian soldiers were killed.

The decision last night to expel the entire Syrian Embassy staff from Amman should be viewed in a wider perspective and context. Thus, for example, one should remember that the Kuwaiti parliament is scheduled to decide today on the termination of financial aid to the Syrian expeditionary force in Lebanon. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Emirates opposed the extension of the Syrian force's mandate during the Arab foreign ministers' latest meeting in Tunis, but they did not win a majority and the mandate was still renewed.

In this we are witnessing the Arabs' increasing dismay with the Syrian activity both because of the oppressive measures the 'Alawite regime has been applying against the members of the Sunni majority and the Muslim Brotherhood underground, as well as Syria's unqualified support for Khomeyni's regime in the Iraq-Iran war. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states support their Arab colleague, Iraq.

Finally, no doubt this is but the beginning of a series of additional developments. Damascus is bound to react to the Jordanian and Kuwaiti moves. Meanwhile, it appears as though the isolation of Syria and its administration in the Arab world is deepening.

DEFENSE TO FOLLOW 'TOUGH POLICY' ON DRUZE STRIKE

TA221219 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Feb 82 p 3

[Report by correspondent in the north Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] The Defense Ministry intends to implement a tough policy toward the extremists and strike agitators among the Golan Druze. This will be done in the next few days. Thus, the supply of electricity and water to the villages will probably be stopped as part of those measures unless the strike ends at once. This was learned yesterday following the meeting of the Defense Ministry representative, Nahman Lev, and representatives of the strikers. The meeting was held in the Interior Ministry, Mas'adah Village branch last Friday. Yesterday, the Defense Ministry representative did not show up for an additional meeting with the Druze, despite the fact that he had given his word he would.

The Defense Ministry spokesman said last night that since Israeli law was applied to the Golan Heights the Defense Ministry has not been handling the affairs of the local Druze, thus the contacts with the Druze were not conducted by a person from the Defense Ministry staff. Yesterday the general strike in the Golan Druze villages continued, and only one restaurant -- near (Birkat Ram) -- whose owners are known to be Israeli supporters was open.

An atmosphere of a "leadership crisis" can be felt among the extremist elements and those who organized the strike, due to the absence of the two shayks from the Kanj clan -- they being the recognized Druze sect leaders on the Golan. At the same time, it does not appear as if the strike will end in the next few days despite activity by local Golan Druze villagers. [sentence as published]

The prolonged strike and the government's method of handling the instigators have led to increased fury and frustration among the Israeli supporters on the Golan. In the last few days, the pressures and the religious and social boycott imposed on the Israeli supporters and Druze administration officials on the Golan has been felt more strongly. Officials who had to succumb to the pressure of the Druze extremists and were forced to join the strike yesterday received notices from their Jewish employers that they are on annual leave. The possibility that they might be fired because of their participation in the strike was not mentioned.

On Saturday night, some officials from the Mas'ahad Local Council submitted their resignations following heavy pressure by the extremists. They were asked not to work under council head Muhsin Abu Salah, who supports Israel and is one of the few people who is not participating in the strike. The director of the Northern District in the Education Ministry, Yosef Levi, will this week summon all the school principals from the Golan Druze sector for an urgent meeting to issue a warning that if they do not open up the schools, they will have to resign.

BOMBS DISMANTLED IN PETAH TIQVA, JERUSALEM

TA221616 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Less than an hour ago a bomb was discovered in a branch of Bank Hapo'alim in Petah Tiqva. Policemen arrived and dismantled it. Another bomb was dismantled in Jerusalem this morning.

CABINET UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES PROPOSED BUDGET

TA211113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] This morning the Cabinet unanimously approved the proposed state budget of 475 billion Israeli shekels.

The Cabinet approved a 3 percent cut in the budget of the Education Ministry and rejected the finance minister's demand for a 5 percent cut.

EGYPTS 'ALI INTERVIEWED ON AUTONOMY TALKS

JN191936 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab world 1530 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Interview granted "this week" to the radio's Middle East affairs editor, Sha'ul Minashe, by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister -- carried in "With the Events" program; recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, how do you view Egyptian-Israeli relations after full withdrawal, especially since two issues will emerge in the coming period, namely, the attempts at rapprochement between the Arab states and Egypt and the urgency to solve the Palestine question and give the autonomy talks a push forward? Would this have an adverse effect on relations?

[Answer] Actually, withdrawal from the remainder of Sinai on 25 April constitutes a very important step on the road to peace between the two countries and toward implementing the Egyptian-Israeli treaty -- the cornerstone of a long peace process which will continue in the future, God willing. Naturally, such a step will achieve more understanding between both peoples and will end certain sensitivities which, of course, will continue until 25 April. Furthermore, this step will usher in a new phase marked by more spontaneous normalization between the Egyptians and the Israelis.

On the other hand, Egypt undoubtedly seeks a solution to the Palestine question in order to achieve comprehensive peace in the region so the countries of the region may turn their attention to any outside dangers. The solution of the Palestine question will definitely encourage other Arab states to join the peace process. Thus the region will witness stability, security and international cooperation based on friendship between Israel and the peoples of this region. Israel will then be considered a part of this region and not of any other world.

Undoubtedly also Egyptian-Israeli relations will constitute a cornerstone for Arab-Israeli relations when peace, stability and a comprehensive solution are achieved in the region. Egypt will play a very important role in the future between Israel and the Arab states. The constructive steps taken by Egypt and Israel toward normalization and peace will form the basis for dealings between Israel and the Arab states in the region. This shows the political, strategic and economic dimensions of a solution to the Palestine question and the autonomy. The solution will set off a chain of actions toward a rapprochement between Israel and the other Arab states.

[Question] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, there is a general belief that the solution of the Palestine question is an essential basis for comprehensive peace in the region. Is Egypt planning to give the autonomy talks a push forward after the withdrawal to end the 2-year deadlock?

[Answer] Actually, autonomy is more than an essential basis, it is a necessity for comprehensive peace in the region. Unless we encourage other parties to join the peace process, the desired rapprochement I mentioned will not take place. Therefore, I consider autonomy a necessity. The autonomy talks must continue, and, 25 April is not a deadline for these talks. As President Husni Mubarak has rightly said, these talks have no specific deadline. They might end before or after 25 April. This date has no significance whatsoever for the autonomy talks.

All that Egypt plans to achieve is the comprehensive peace it signed with Israel at Camp David. Autonomy is not an end in itself. The end is the achievement of comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Therefore, if it is said that Egypt has a plan it is to work for the achievement of an agreement on principles so that we can achieve this end.

[Question] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, we recall that during the Camp David negotiations, there were also deadlocks when either side announced that it had conceded all it could. The same thing is now happening in the autonomy talks. Is there any possibility of breaking the deadlock in these talks on the Camp David pattern?

[Answer] The only practical way is to adhere to two principles: The first principle is that, unless the Palestinians and Jordan participate in talks during the transitional period, there is no hope in continuing the Camp David process with regard to autonomy. The second principle is that we must examine the interests of both sides, not just one. Our interest in this issue is not Egyptian as much as it is pan-Arab. As for Israel, it is indeed a party to this issue and has an interest in it. As I said, there are also other sides, such as the Palestinains and Jordan. Therefore, we must solve this problem from a wider perspective. Unless it is tackled on this basis, then I believe that the deadlock will continue. This is not what we want. We hope that the deadlock will end in the near future.

[Question] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, I have a final question. We witness intensive activity these days between Egypt and Israel, such as the exchange of visits, cooperation and the conclusion of agreements. Can we tell the Israeli people that this cooperation will continue and intensify even after the withdrawal?

[Answer] You are right. There are very intensive activities between the two countries in the medical, cultural, trade and other fields. Meetings between the officials of both countries are also taking place. For instance, Defense Minister Sharon's last visit was a great success indeed. I also hope that the working visit which Foreign Minister Shamir will pay on 22 February will have its effect in bringing the viewpoints of both countries closer on all problems whatsoever between us. I believe that we can, through such meetings, overcome all outstanding points between the two countries.

Actually, I consider this a prelude to the relations which will exist after 25 April, when relations are expected to be further consolidated, as I said earlier in this interview, because all sensitive issues will have been removed and the treaty will have been fully implemented. This means that relations between both peoples will be very normal.

[Question] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, thank you very much, and God bless you.

[Question] Thank you very much.

RAFAH BORDER TO BE DISCUSSED IN CAIRO 23 FEB

TA230536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee will be convened in Cairo this morning to discuss border alterations near Rafah. Egypt, in a document submitted to the committee, said that it does not agree to alterations in the region, as Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced yesterday. The Egyptians demand that the border run through the town of Rafah, but are prepared to allow a population exchange in accordance with the preference of the inhabitants and to compensate those who might be harmed by the border demarcation. Meanwhile, Egyptian sources have told our correspondent that Israel is demanding $143 million for the equipment and installations it is leaving behind in northern Sinai.

OAU CHAIRMAN: W. SAHARAN TALKS COMPLETED

NC221740 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Negotiations between Organisation of African Unity (OAU) -- Chairman Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and the parties involved in the Western Sahara conflict have been completed. Details will soon be reported to the OAU's implementation committee on the Sahara, Kenyan Foreign Minister Robert Ouko told the opening session of the OAU Council of Ministers today.

As Mr Ouko spoke a representative of the Polisario was occupying a seat reserved for the movement's Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [SADR] for the first time at an OAU meeting. His arrival prompted a walkout by the Moroccan delegation. Mr Ouko gave no information on what had emerged from the negotiations, decided upon by the OAU mini-summit of the seven (?implementing) nations in Nairobi early this month.

The Kenyan president was mandated by the summit to negotiate a date for a ceasefire in the six-year-old conflict and the organisation of a self-determination referendum. He was to consult the "parties in conflict" -- Morocco and the Polisario nationalist movement -- and the "interested parties" (Algeria and Mauritania). SADR Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim was in the front row of today's meeting, between the delegations of Nigeria and Rwanda.

WEST SAHARAN DELEGATION SEATED AT OPENING SESSION

NC221553 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 22 Feb (AFP) -- The Western Saharan state declared by the Polisario Front guerrilla movement was today for the first time officially admitted to an Organisation of African Unity meeting. The delegation of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, led by its Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim, sat down between Nigeria and Rwanda at a place specially marked out for it at the OAU Council of Ministers meeting here. The Saharan demand for OAU membership has been posing a delicate problem for the OAU. And the development prompted a walk-out by the Moroccan delegation before the foreign minister of Kenya, which currently has chairmanship of the organisation, formally opened the meeting.

Saharan Information Minister Mohamed Ould Salek told reporters the state was "now a full member of the OAU. If not we would not be there", while an OAU source described its admission as "an administrative question". Twenty-six OAU members, a majority among its 50 states, have recognised the Saharan state and called in July 1980 for its admission to the organisation. But Morocco had effectively blocked this, arguing that the OAU charter required a two-thirds assent for admission as a member.

Morocco, which claims the Western Sahara and has been fighting the Polisario for control of the territory for some six years, has in the past threatened to leave the OAU if the Saharan state is admitted. The OAU for its part last year decided that that there should be a ceasefire in the war and that a referendum should be held in the territory to decide its future.

Speakers Minister Robert Ouko, made no reference to the seating of a Saharan representative and the absence of a Moroccan one. Asked by reporters how many member states the OAU had now, OAU Secretary General Edem Kokjo said: "This is not the time for an answer. The meeting (afternoon session) is still going on." Shortly afterwards, the meeting, which was to have remained open until the election of officers and a consideration of the agenda, went into closed session.

FIKRE-SELASSIE CALLS FOR INCREASED OAU UNITY

EA221900 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderes today told African ministers to strengthen the unity of the continent, resist common enemies and focus on common problems instead of creating friction among ourselves by interfering in one another's internal affairs. Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderes, secretary general of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and Central Committee member of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia said this at Africa Hall in his opening address to the OAU's annual budgetary session.

In his speech, Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderes said that the most pressing African question is the freeing of our brothers from colonial oppression in South Africa and Namibia. He asked the assembled ministers to focus their discussions on rendering material assistance to SWAPO to enable it to intensify its armed struggle. Comrade Fikre-Selassie said that the other major African problem is the maintenance of the territorial integrity and security of each and every independent African country. He said that African countries should contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in every other African country, repsect its territorial integrity, avoid interference in the internal affairs of others and stop provoking one another at the instigation of imperialists.

He said that in order to do so it is necessary to strengthen further the OAU, the symbol of our strength and unity. Comrade Fikre-Selassie said the other African problem is the rapid development of the economy of each African country and said that it is imperative that African countries cooperate among themselves and depend more on their own efforts and resources for this purpose.

Concluding his speech, Comrade Fikre-Selassie disclosed the conspiracies of imperialism and its accomplices against Africans to safeguard their own interests and urged Africans to deny the enemies of Africa ways and means of exploiting us and undermining our economic development efforts. He said there is a need for every African country to take a bold political stand in order to safeguard its interests. He hoped that the ministerial meeting will pass the necessary resolutions to make possible the implementation of the OAU's objectives.

W. SAHARAN OAU ADMISSION MAY SPLIT UNITY

NC230915 Paris AFP in English 0827 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 23 Feb (AFP) -- The issue of Western Sahara could finally split the troubled Organisation of African Unity, observers at the OAU Council of Ministers meeting here said today. They fear that Morocco and its supporters in its fight for the territory against the Polisario Front could quit the pan-African body following yesterday's admission of the Polisario's Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) to yesterday's opening session of the council.

The Moroccan delegation walked out when SADR Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim took his specially labelled seat, saying afterwards it would not sit at the same table as "an imaginary republic". When the meeting went into private session nine of Morocco's supporters -- Sudan, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal, Comoros, Gabon, Sierra Leone, Upper Volta and Zaire -- reportedly protested at the SADR's admission. The Sudanese delegate said his country would be calling for an emergency session of the OAU implementation committee on Western Sahara.

None of the SADR's supporters spoke but the debate is to continue today. However Moroccan delegate Abdelatif Mouline said the whole issue could be put off until the next OAU summit in Tripoli later this year. The Western Sahara issue is potentially the most divisive for the OAU since the pan-African body was formed in 1963. Morocco threatened to pull out in 1980 when the SADR won recognition from 26 of the OAU's 50 members states, saying admission by a simple majority was a false interpretation of the OAU charter.

Conference Chairman and Kenyan Foreign Minister Robert Ouko said OAU head Daniel arap Moi had completed consultations with the interested parties in the Western Sahara conflict -- Morocco, the Polisario, Mauritania and Algeria -- and would be submitting his report to the seven-nation implementation committee. Mr Ouko gave no details.

The SADR has also won recognition from 19 states, mainly left-wing, from outside the continent. Its African backers are Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

OAU AGREES TO HOLD 1982 SUMMIT IN LIBYA

NC201512 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 20 Feb (AFP) -- Libya has signed an agreement with the Organization of African Unity which apparently effectively confirms the holding of this year's OAU summit in the Libyan capital of Tripoli next June or July. The agreement was signed here yesterday by OAU Secretary-General Edem Kokjo and Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) Secretary Kalifa Bazalia. The OAU summit in Nairobi in June last year selected Tripoli for the gathered but there had been threats by several African states, including Egypt and Sudan, that they would boycott the meeting unless the venue was changed.

ALGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH IRANIANS

LD191642 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Algiers, 19 Feb (IRNA) -- The Algerian foreign minister, Mohamed Benyahia, in an interview with IRNA on Thursday said that his negotiations with the Iranian foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, were useful. He further added that talks on expanding commercial, cultural and technical relations reached a good level. The stress was, he said, on further expansion of relations between the two countries.

Commenting on the Iraqi-imposed war, the Algerian foreign minister said that all resources should be used against Zionism. He condemned (?U.S.) aids to Morocco to help crush the struggle of the people of Sahara.

When asked about the Libyan proposal concerning unity between Algeria, Syria and Libya Mohamed Benyahia said that all Arab nations must adhere to unity among themselves so that no domestic or foreign aggressor could destroy their unity.

LIBYA

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH IRAN

LD192100 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA) -- Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi and the Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in various fields between the jamahiriyah and Iran. Two agreements were signed, one for cultural cooperation and the other for economic cooperation between the two countries as well as an agreement to form a Libyan Arab-Iranian joint committee for bolstering and developing bilateral cooperation between the jamahiriyah and Iran.

Iranian Delegation Departs

LD202244 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Feb (JANA) -- The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning. Before his departure, Velayati made a statement to our correspondent at Tripoli Airport in which he said his visit was positive and that it will open new horizons for the development of relations between both countries. He said the visit affirms Iran's support for the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

He said the Iranian Islamic revolution highly values the unflinching stands of the Steadfastness Front in confronting all imperialist and Zionist conspiracies.

He said the Iranian Islamic revolution is well aware of the conspiracies perpetrated by the U.S. and has consquently broken off relations with American, Israel and the racist South African regime. It has, he added, stopped all oil supplies to these countries and handed over the Israeli Embassy in Tehran to the Palestine Liberation Organisation for use as its headquarters.

He said the Palestinian issue forms the pivot of Iran's foreign policy and views all those betraying it as enemies, and as agents of America, Zionism and reaction.

ANTI-IMPERIALIST GROUP DISCUSSES FOLLOWUP WORK

LD230948 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The preparatory committee of the International Forum To Fight Imperialism, Zionism, Racism and Reaction met at 1800 Monday to discuss the final agenda item: the study of plans for a general conference of the international forum. The meeting ended with the formation of a 15-member committee to fix the meeting times of the preparatory committee's action committee which will follow up work, set the times for meetings of the committee preparing for the international forum's general conference, and fix the dates for the general conference.

The preparatory committee of the International Forum To Fight Imperialism, Zionism, Racism and Reaction will hold its final meeting Tuesday morning to announce its resolutions and recommendations.

JANA BLAMES U.S. FOR OIL GLUT, URGES SUMMIT

LD221044 Tripoli JANA in English 0910 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Feb (JANA) -- U.S. imperialist policies and methods of an aggressive nature have led to a deterioration of the situation on the international oil market, resulting in a world oil glut.

The glut is a direct result of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's proposal to Congress in January 1980 to use force if necessary as a means of securing American interests.

It is furthermore the result of Reagan's insistance on continuing this role by enhancing it through the establishment of the Rapid Deployment Force. This policy has guaranteed the U.S. Administration cheap oil supplies and caused harm to the interests of producer countries. This dangerous policy's strategy depended on several factors, one such factor was the encouragement the United States gave to some oil countries to increase production by astronomical rates. Saudi Arabia's production has risen from 4 to 12 million barrels a day. This increase was planned by the United States in advance in a bid to confront other producing countries and paralyse their economic activities.

By doing so, the United States confused countries fighting for their freedom and investing their oil revenues in a bid to raise the living standard of their peoples.

The U.S. administration has clearly benefitted from the prevailing glut on the world market. The glut has enabled it to stockpile 250 million barrels in 1980, and it is now seriously working for raising its strategic stockpile to one billion barrels by 1985.

The United States has also been able to carry out its premeditated designs by lessening the strategic importance of oil. JANA news agency political editor said the U.S. administration is striving for its continued and guaranteed access to the Arabian Gulf oil fields so that oil is not used as a strategic weapon against either Israel or itself.

He said the dangerous aspects of the continued world oil glut is the serious damage it has caused to peoples of producer countries in Africa, Central America and the Arabian Gulf.

He said that if a summit is not convened to deal with this dangerous situation, a more dangerous period of confrontation shall begin. The holding of such a summit meeting seems more urgent following the failure of earlier conferences held at ministerial level in realising desired goals, i.e. ending the oil glut which has been artificially created by increased Saudi oil production.

African, Arabian Gulf and North African peoples have started to sense the serious threat that has been inflicted on them as a result of the stampede to buy cheap Saudi oil. These peoples feel that the oil glut has paralysed their activities and threatened them with starvation as a result of their own reduced oil production.

These peoples have been left no alternative but to employ the same means used by the American administration of confrontation whatever the price. Hunger knows no barrier and the hungry shall always be prepared for confrontation until death.

The political editor said that Saudi Arabia carries some of the responsibility for this. Its duty necessitates awareness that flooding the international market with crude oil has caused the starvation of peoples in other producing countries. Saudi Arabia is therefore called upon to take necessary measures through OPEC and OAPEC to avert the possibility of confrontation between these peoples and their enemies.

This call, translated into reality, means that Saudi Arabia should reduce its maximum ceiling for oil production to 4 million barrels per day.

EVIDENCE OF U.S. 'PRESSURE' ON AFRICA OBTAINED

LD191518 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA) -- The U.S. administration is bringing pressure to bear on the African countries to persuade them not to attend the forthcoming OAU summit conference scheduled to be held in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in order to attain its imperialist interests in Africa. The U.S. administration has threatened some African countries that they will be exposed to economic sanctions from the United States if they fail to submit to the pressure and attend the conference.

While reporting these facts, obtained from responsible African sources, JANA might find it necessary to publish letters addressed to some African countries in which the U.S. administration asks them not to attend the said conference.

JANA also will publish recordings of meetings that have been held by U.S. ambassadors in some of the African countries and some American officials who visited these countries recently in which they ask the ambassadors to exert pressure on these governments to force them not to attend the African summit conference.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON EVE OF PRC VISIT

LD202140 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Maati Bouabid will leave Morocco tomorrow for Beijing on an official visit to the PRC. Mr Bouabid gave the XINHUA representative in Rabat an interview in which he spoke about Moroccan-Chinese relations and the situation in northwest Africa and in the Middle East.

The prime minister explained that the purpose of his visit is to consolidate the old friendship existing between the two countries and to strengthen their political, economic and cultural relations. He also explained that King Hassan II has always accepted the good offices offered by friendly and fraternal countries to settle the dispute about the Sahara issue, which in fact is a dispute between Morocco and Algeria.

Regarding the referendum, the prime minister said the king has clearly expressed his desire to hold the referendum as soon as possible with the highest African and international guarantees according to the clear rules of law.

Concerning Moroccan foreign policy, the prime minister said that Morocco adheres to the principles of real nonalignment based on respect for national independence, territorial integrity and noninterference in internal affairs, and those are the principles that should govern international relations within a framework of mutual respect and equality of sovereign states.

Concerning the situation in the Middle East, he said the Arab nation is exposed to a real danger represented by Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy and its defiance of the international organization and international opinion. To face this situation, Mr Bouabid said, the Arab nation only needs the weapon of closed ranks, and it should prepare a common strategy to confront the Zionist intransigence, on both the regional and the international levels.

On the Moroccan position on the events in Afghanistan, Kampuchea and Poland, the prime minister stated that Moroccan hope is centered on seeing all peoples choosing their own system with full freedom and free of any foreign interference. The interests of some superpowers should not lead to their direct or concealed intervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

SUDAN

FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SESSION BEGINS

Assembly Officials Nominated

JN202011 Khartoum SUNA in English 1945 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA) -- Under chairmanship of President Numayri, the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) house group approved this evening the nomination of 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid as speaker of the People's Assembly and Dr. 'Abd al-Hamid Salih and Louigi Adok as his deputies.

The group also approved the nomination of Badr ad-Din Sulayman as leader of the People's Assembly, Dr. Mukhtar al-Asam as the house controller and Ibrahim Hasan Idris and 'Abdallah Hamad az-Zubayr as his deputies for the affairs of the Administrative Control Committee and for the house affairs, and Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr as chairman of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee.

The People's Assembly will meet next Monday in its first sitting.

Speaker Elected

JN221104 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA) -- At the opening session of the Fifth National People's Assembly meetings which began at 1030 today, 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid was elected speaker of the People's Assembly.

Assembly Leader Appointed

JN221442 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA) -- President Numayri issued a decree today appointing Badr ad-Din Sulayman as leader of the Fifth National People's Assembly.

Assembly Speaker's Speech

JN221606 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA) -- People's Assembly Speaker, 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid underlined today the importance of the assembly's role in enriching the parliamentary experience throughout Sudan and in maintaining strong relations with the constitutional councils in the regions, since the People's Assembly is first in the hierarchy of regional rule.

'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid was addressing today's first meeting of the first session of the Fifth National People's Assembly which was also addressed by President Numayri.

He said Sudan is living amid changeable international circumstances and critical developments. As-Sayyid emphasized that Sudan's political weight has subjected it to the ambitions of lurking powers that threaten its unity, security, safety and stability. He asserted that the People's Assembly would focus on further bolstering the safety of the internal front, tightening the ranks of the people and strengthening their national unity. National unity is the rock on which the enemy's attempts will founder, and is also the security valve that deflates the bold plots of enemies.

Addressing President Numayri, As-Sayyid said: Our country under your leadership, has surmounted the most difficult and acute stages. Our country has, under your guidance, moved from the stage of revolutionary legitimacy to the stage of constitutional legitimacy. We all remember how the First National People's Assembly endorsed the country's permanent constitution, thus forming the state's organizations.

Under your leadership, As-Sayyid added, our country passed from the stage of fragmentation to the stage of national unity, from the stage of economic backwardness to the stage of vast development.

'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid expressed his hope that all efforts will focus on the unity of Arab ranks, a unity whose sole alternative is a division which has tempted the Arab nation's enemies to disregard usurped Arab rights and to employ current disputes, differences and conflicts to infiltrate all the Arab countries or to drag them into hotbeds of international conflict.

KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RESUME STUDIES

NC201750 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (AFP) -- Students in their final year in all faculties at the University of Khartoum resumed studies today after a 45-day closure of classes by the authorities in the wake of violent demonstrations.

University officials described the situation as calm, saying that students who returned to their lodgings on Thursday were getting involved in their studies to prepare for final examinations in April.

Studies also resumed today at all schools and higher education institutes in Khartoum Province.

EMBASSIES CLOSED IN COST-CUTTING PROGRAM

JN211522 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 21 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Feb (SUNA) -- It has been decided to close eight of Sudan's Embassies abroad and to reduce the amount of manpower in embassies and diplomatic missions.

This came within the framework of the implementation of the economic revival program, which will save the Foreign Ministry annual budget over a million Sudanese pounds.

It was also decided to draw up bases and controls to reduce the expenditures of government departments so as to achieve lower costs.

TUNISIA

AL-QADHDHAFI ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT 23 FEB

NC231120 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Tunis, 23 Feb (AFP) -- Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived by road today at Ra's Ajdir, on the Libyan-Tunisian border, for an official visit to Tunisia. He was greeted by Foreign Minister Caid es-Sebsi and other officials. There has been no indication on how long Col al-Qadhdhafi will remain in the country, but sources said he would be going first to Safaqis, half-way between Ra's Adjir and Tunis, for lunch before continuing to the capital.

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES FRENCH PREMIER

LD192048 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpts] President Habib Bourguiba accorded French Premier Pierre Mauroy a friendly audience at midday today in the presence of members of the latter's delegation, and Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister; Beji Caid es-Sebsi, foreign minister and both countries' ambassadors. The president invested the guest with the highest rank [words indistinct].

The guest said after the meeting that he was convinced that the visit which President Mitterrand will pay to Tunisia and his current visit will further the Franco-Tunisia cooperation which is progressing, and will give it more depth [words indistinct], within the framework of the policy explained by the French president in Cancun.

Mauroy Comments on Talks

LD192114 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The Tunisian-French talks resumed this evening to discuss cooperation. Following the talks, Mr Pierre Mauroy held a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the presence of Mohamed Mzali. At the beginning of this conference, the French premier noted that his visit to Tunisia, despite its short duration, was fruitful and enabled both sides to study various common matters, particularly the ideal cooperation between the two countries for which the Socialist French Government has worked since it came to power, and consolidating and giving this cooperation new horizons to achieve the two countries' aspirations.

Mr Pierre Mauroy referred to the decisions reached at the working sessions and meetings he held with the members of the Tunisian Government and noted that both sides agreed to consider the Cancun resolutions as the basis for the two countries' actions. It was also decided to consolidate bilateral cooperation with regard to achievements and principles, and to work in a unified front calling for the establishment of a new international order. He also noted that priority will be given to all development work.

Mr Pierre Mauroy referred to the agreement relating to the establishment of a tripartite bank between Tunisia, Qatar and France as a crowning of this cooperative work. They also looked into the question of setting up a Peugeot car factory, and French participation in building an electrical generator in (Garabus).

ETHIOPIA

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS SUCCESS IN MILITARY CAMPAIGN

NC221151 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Ethiopia, which has been keeping a guarded silence on a new military campaign against secessionist guerrillas in Eritrea, has indicated for the first time that the offensive is going in the government's favour. A commentary on Ethiopia television last night said that even the natural barriers and difficult terrain in the Sahel region to which the guerrillas had retreated with confidence in 1978 were no longer safe havens for them. The second Ethiopian Revolutionary Army was handling the offensive with "great skill and courage", the statement said.

It indirectly denied statements by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in Khartoum and Beirut at the weekend that the war in Eritrea was raging on "all fronts". The guerrilla resistance was only concentrated in the Sahel Mountains in the northeast of the province, the TV statement said, adding that it would not be long before the flag of victory fluttered on the ruins of the guerrillas' barricades.

The commentary said "large numbers" of EPLF guerrillas were giving themselves up to Ethiopian forces, apparently because of the success of the Ethiopian offensive. The commentary gave no specific figures on casualties on either side, dates of engagements or the material loss to the guerrillas. The EPLF said over the weekend that some 800 Ethiopian troops had been killed and roughly the same number wounded in clashes over two days. The commentary coincided with an announcement of four promotions in the ranks of the Ethiopian Army on the fighting front. In promoting the men, the ruling military council cited their special qualities of leadership and courage in the field of battle. The public announcement of the promotions was an unusual step, apparently indicative of success of the "red star" campaign.

TIGRE REBELS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON CLASHES

NC221901 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Rome, 22 Feb (AFP) -- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Tigre today said its forces have killed 480 Ethiopian soldiers and captured 662 others in an offensive against the Ethiopian Government Army. The aim of the offensive, according to a communique from the front here, was to weaken the Ethiopian Army at a time when it was battling forces fighting for the liberation of Eritrea. The Tigrean movement has been fighting the military regime in Addis Ababa since 1975 for the self-determination of Tigre Province, in northern Ethiopia.

SOMALIA

EPLF COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ASMARA AIRPORT RAID

EA221736 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] has reported that its fighters bombarded Asmara airport last Saturday and killed or wounded 565 soldiers of the Abyssinian forces, including some foreign advisors, according to a statement released in Beirut. The EPLF added that extensive damage was caused to the airport and seven Russian MIG-21's and MIG-23's, two military transport aircraft, three helicopters, military stores and fuel depots were destroyed.

UGANDA

ARMY OVERPOWERS 'TERRORISTS' IN KAMPALA

LD231008 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] This is Radio Uganda and here is a special government statement:

At about two o'clock this morning, a gang of terrorists taking advantage of the relaxed situation entered into the southern parts of Kampala. These are part of the people who for a year now have engaged in terrorist activities in the districts of Mpigi, Luwero and Mukono. This time their activities in the rural areas having been frustrated by security forces, they sought to create terror and fear in the city of Kampala.

Last night's activities were concentrated in the Kampala suburbs of Katwe, Mengo, Kibuli, (Nanjanankumbi), (Kabowa) and (Bireba). The terrorists were easily overpowered by the army and large quantities of various types of arms were captured. The arms captured have certain markings which gives a general indication of the suppliers. The situation is now completely quiet and the population in Kampala should have no cause for concern and should continue to carry out their normal work.

As stated repeatedly in the past, these terrorists are not capable of overthrowing the government and anybody who joins them brings only misery and suffering to his family and neighbors. Throughout last year the leaders of these terrorists have been stating that they were waging a guerrilla war. The events of this morning clearly demonstrate that they are now in desperation because of lack of support among the people. They have now resorted to adventuristic military actions which will achieve nothing.

Government appeals to the population in the affected areas not to give any sanctuary or refuge to the fleeing terrorists and to report immediately to the security forces any suspicious persons seen in your area. Government will continue to ensure the safety of citizens and their properties and will do all in its part to eradicate terrorist activities and banditry.

EXPLOSIONS, GUNFIRE REPORTED IN KAMPALA SUBURBS

AB231016 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Kampala, Feb 23 (AFP) -- Explosions and sporadic gunfire continued through the night until well into the morning in the south western suburbs of the Ugandan capital today. The shooting started at 2:00 a.m. in Rubaga, Kaboowa and Ndeeba suburbs, about three kilometres (two miles) from the city centre near the Lubiri military barracks. Early today the army started a house-to-house search in the three suburbs, and shots continued to be heard from the area until mid-morning. In the city center, banks and other businesses opened late, and a number of shops remained closed through the morning. Traffic was quieter than usual and taxis only appeared on the streets towards lunchtime. Uganda radio made no mention of the shooting and there has been no official explanation of the gunfire.

CHAD

GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN GENERAL OFFENSIVE IN NORTH

LD221416 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The Chadian Embassy in Paris has announced the start of a general offensive against the northern armed forces of Hissein Habre, and has confirmed the recapture of the town of Oum Hadjer in the east of the country, which is one of the most important rebel garrisons according to the embassy.

RWANDA

COT SAYS FRANCE TO INCREASE, UPGRADE AID

AB201223 Paris AFP in French 1046 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] Kigali, 20 Feb (AFP) -- France will increase its aid to Rwanda both in quantity and in quality, Jean-Pierre Cot, French minister of cooperation, indicated on Saturday after a meeting of the French-Rwandan Joint Commission which began on Friday in Kigali.

Mr Cot stressed in a press conference that the assistance granted through the aid and cooperation fund will be increased by 50 percent and "on a more general basis there will be an increase of about 30 percent in the assistance given by the Ministry of Cooperation for development, excluding contributions from the Centrai Fund for Economic Cooperation."

Qualitatively, he added, the French Government's efforts are directed toward objectives which fall in line with the Rwandan Government's concerns, especially self-sufficiency in food production.

The communique issued after the meeting also shows that the two delegations had a fruitful exchange of views, taking into account commitments made by France during the Paris conference on the world's least developed countries and the priorities of the Rwandan Government.

According to the communique, France made a commitment to take charge of 97 technical assistance positions for 1982 and a team of rural development experts will be sent to Rwanda during the year.

France will also participate in the financing of a center for an agriculture pilot scheme within the framework of the Zaire-Nile ridge development and will contribute to the improvement of security installations at the airport and meteorological center.

In the educational sector, France will participate in the production of school materials, the training of craftsmen and the provision of refresher courses for teachers.

Jean-Pierre Cot, who arrived in Kigali on Thursday night, will leave for Burundi on Sunday.

GHANA

RAWLINGS 'IMPATIENT' TO SEE CHANGES MADE

AB221724 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Accra, 22 Feb (AFP) -- Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings was mobbed by crowds yesterday when he addressed a public meeting in the Ashanti regional capital of Kumasi. Mr Rawlings told the meeting that his government's declared policy of setting up local people's defences committees was to "ensure that power that was given to a few people dubbed parliamentarians was given back to the people." He urged the nation to work harder and expose "the idle rich" who, he said, had been giving financial inducements to the military to negate the revolution. Mr Rawlings said that he was "impatient" to see changes made and utilised in the right sense.

CHAIRMAN URGES PEOPLE NOT TO 'BETRAY' COUNTRY

AB230737 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings, has asked Ghanaians to master their political and intellectual power to solve the country's problems. Addressing a large crowd at Sunyani yesterday, he urged them to vow not to betray the country again. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said henceforth no one person is going to sit at the castle to decide for the people and all official business which goes on in the ministries will be conducted in the open for every man to know the decisions affecting him. The PNDC chairman said if Ghanaians understand and embrace the revolution it will spread to other parts of Africa to enhance the unity of the continent. He added that the revolution is meant to ensure equitable distribution of the national wealth. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings also addressed officers and men of the 3d batallion of the People's Army and the police.

RAMPAGING TROOPS KILL RELIGIOUS SECT MEMBERS

AB230731 Paris AFP in English 0717 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Lagos, Feb. 23 (AFP) -- Rampaging Ghanaian troops killed more than 75 people in a clash with members of a religious sect in Kumasi, Ghana's second-biggest city, earlier this month and burned the body of its leader at a crossroads, Ghanaian refugees reaching here told AFP yesterday. The refugees said that anarchy now reigned in Ghana with troops ignoring all orders and pillaging and extorting money in rural villages. An eyewitness said the religious sect killings began on Sunday, February 7 in Kumasi, nearly 200 kms (120 miles) northwest of the Ghanaian capital, Accra.

The eyewitness said soldiers went to the church of "The Lord Is My Shepherd" Sect, which has nearly 10,000 members in Kumasi, to search for a priest. One of the soldiers was jostled and a clash followed during which a woman police sergeant who belonged to the church was killed. Other sect members retaliated by killing a soldier, the eyewitness said. When news of this reached the local barracks, soldiers went on a rampage, hunting for sect members and burning their church to the ground.

They killed the head of the church, Prophet Odifur Asare, displayed his body at a cross-roads in Kumasi and later burned it, the eyewitness said, adding that 78 people in all had been killed in the two-day rampage which only ended with the imposition of a curfew on the area.

(Reports from Accra yesterday said that military government head Jerry Rawlings went to Kumasi at the weekend and told an enthusiastic rally that the curfew was being shortened by two hours).

In another incident involving rampaging troops, refugees reported that 40 people had been killed in Takoradi in the south of the country. "The soldiers have no respect for anything any more," an officer who fled Ghana said. "They kill their officers and refuse to obey orders." He said the troops had killed Navy Lieutenant-Commanders Joe Barnor and Aryee Ajavon and a chief petty officer who he knew only as Hughes.

Refugees said that the anarchy in Ghana, following the New Year's Eve coup d'etat which brought former Flight Lieutenant Rawlings back to power, had even spread to schools. One refugee said secondary schoolchildren were beating up their teachers and burning their houses [words indistinct] "anti-revolution."

Refugees said there were now 250 Libyan troops in Ghana and that the Libyan charge d'affaires had delivered a public speech on February 21. They said that as all the key posts in the new government had been given to the ethnic Ewes who live in southeastern Ghana, tribal tensions had developed and people were frightened. They said the number of Ghanaians fleeing the country was growing. Many wanted to go on from Nigeria to Britain or to Ivory Coast. Togo and Upper Volta, both poor countries, also (?had) an influx of refugees, observers here said.

LIBERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR OAU MEETING

AB191801 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Henry Boimah Fahnbulleh left the country today for the (?29th) ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers meeting in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. According to the Foreign Ministry's release issued today, the OAU Council of Ministers meeting, which is due to begin on 22 February and end on 1 March, will discuss budgetary matters affecting the organization. Accompanying the foreign ministers are: Turner Stewart, Liberian ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Maj Samuel Pearson, ambassador to Kenya; Mr Alphonso Kawah, special assistant to the minister; and Mrs Sanadel Allen [words indistinct] for African affairs in the Bureau of Afro-Asian Affairs.

While en route to Ethiopia, Foreign Minister Fahnbulleh will make a stopover in Nairobi where he will meet with leading officials of the Kenyan Government. During the absence of the foreign minister, Deputy Foreign Minister Christopher Minnikon will act as minister of foreign affairs pending his return.

Calls for OAU 'Strike Force'

AB222038 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Foreign Minister H. Boimah Fahnbulleh has urged the OAU to form a continental strike force for the liberation of the people in South Africa. Minister Fahnbulleh, who was speaking at the weekend on Kenya's national television during a brief stopover in Nairobi, said it was necessary for OAU member states to make available resources and assistance to the frontline states in support of the resolution (?passed). Dr Fahnbulleh left Monrovia on Friday of last week for Ethiopia to attend the 39th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers meeting in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. He stopped in Nairobi where he met with leading officials of the Kenyan Government and discussed bilateral cooperation between Kenya and Liberia.

NIGERIA

HOUSE APPROVES BUDGET FOR NEW CAPITAL, DEFENSE

AB221700 Lagos NAN in English 1548 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Lagos, 22 Feb (NAN) -- The House of Representatives today approved the 1982 budget estimates for the federal capital territory and the Ministry of Defence. This followed the house's approval of the report of its committee on appropriation. A total of N15,674,250 was approved for recurrent expenditure and an amended capital estimate of N321,050,690 for the federal capital territory.

The House approved Naira 660,818,240 [as received] as recurrent and N447,904,550 as capital expenditures for the Ministry of Defence. The recurrent estimate for defence provides for N386,178,510 and N374,639,730 as personnel and over-head costs, respectively.

Chief Tom Egbuwoku, UPN [Unite Party of Nigeria] Bendel, alleged that contracts for projects in Abuja were being inflated and called for prudence and caution in spending money on projects there. Mr. S.M.C. Ihekweazu, NPP [Nigerian People's Party] imo, said that more funds were needed to complete work at the new capital to accommodate civil servants, and other workers moving there next September. He said that it was evident that work going on at the new federal capital conformed with international standards.

PRESIDENT HOLDS TALKS WITH CAPE VERDE'S PEREIRA

AB221601 Lagos NAN in English 1540 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] Lagos, 22 Feb (NAN) -- President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde Island stopped over in Lagos on his way back from Kenya. The Cape Verde leader, who was in Kenya for a state visit, was met on arrival by President Shehu Shagari, ministers and top government officials. Shortly after his arrival, the leaders held bilateral talks at the presidential lounge at Murtala Muhammed Airport on issues affecting the two countries. Details of the meeting were not disclosed.

FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES PROPOSE ALIGNMENT

AB210926 Lagos NAN in English 0853 21 Feb 82

[Text] Ibadan, 20 Feb (NAN) -- The gubernatorial candidate of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) in Kwara State during the 1979 elections, Chief Josiah Olawoyin, said today in Ibadan that the proposed alignment of four political parties was to prevent military intervention. Speaking on a radio Oyo interview program, "Meeting Point," Chief Olawoyin said that past experiences of personal clashes between top leaders of parties in the alignment plan was not a barrier. He further said that the alignment would bring a sense of belonging to all Nigerians.

Chief Olawoyin also said that his party was not opposed to the creation of more states and local government areas in the country provided such new entities were viable and grouped together areas that were geographically contiguous. He stated that a suggestion made by his party that some amendments be made on the constitution before new states could be created was turned down by the National Party of Nigeria.

TRIBUNE ASKS MUGABE TO HANDLE NKOMO WITH CARE

AB221335 Lagos International Service in English 1130 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Joshua Nkomo's dismissal from Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's Cabinet is examined by the Nigerian TRIBUNE. Reviewing events in Zimbabwe before and after independence, the paper notes that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe are incompatibles. It, however, recalls the intention of Mr Mugabe of turning Zimbabwe into a one-party state and therefore suspects that what is being done is a maneuver to realize his intentions. The TRIBUNE appeals to Prime Minister Mugabe to handle the matter with care since Joshua Nkomo has his own followers.

UPPER VOLTA

UNHCR PROVIDES CARE FOR FORMER GHANAIAN OFFICIALS

AB191228 Paris AFP in French 1011 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Ouagadougou, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Four former ministers of President Hilla Limann's government, several members of Parliament and leaders of the People's National Party, among others, have taken asylum in Upper Volta following Jerry Rawlings' coup d'etat in Ghana, according to the Upper Voltan bimonthly CARREFOUR AFRICAIN.

According to CARREFOUR AFRICAIN, 77 Ghanaians have been registered and taken care of in Upper Volta by the office of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) which grants them 25,000 CFA francs per month for 3 months. They all wish to obtain the official status of "humanitarian" and not "political" refugee. They include former political officials who have asked not to be named and who have said they fled Ghana "to avoid certain death." Most of them arrived in Upper Volta with nothing, having abandoned everything in their haste to runaway.

To these witnesses, the economic mess, rising inflation and the corruption which flight Lieutenant Rawlings used to justify his return to power are essentially "propaganda" statements. President Limann engaged in many projects including repairing of roads and revival of cocoa and coconut plantations, the refugees feel.

Will they return to Ghana if the new regime invites them? No, they do not have confidence and fear for their lives.

ANGOLA

JORGE INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

AB191841 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1710 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 19 Feb (ANGOP) -- "The so-called rapprochement or even reconciliation between the Angolan Government and South Africa's puppets is pure speculation on the part of the Western press," says Paulo Jorge, Angolan minister of foreign affairs in an interview with the magazine NOVEMBRO published in Luanda.

In the interview, which was published in the magazine's last issue, Paulo Jorge spoke about the process of Namibia's accession to independence and attempts to normalize diplomatic relations between Angola and the United States. Minister Paulo Jorge denies the news reported by some Western press on the alleged conversations between members of the MPLA-Labor Party and the Angolan puppet movement, the principal ally of the South African racists, saying that it was impossible to envisage reconciliation with bandits and criminals.

The Angolan foreign ministers feels Namibia is likely to accede to independence in 1982 on the basis of the United Nations plan which recommends the establishment of a constituent assembly through elections supervised by the United Nations. "The only obstacle that could crop up to Namibia's independence in 1982 would definitely come from the Pretoria regime." The foreign minister charged that the resurgence of military action by the South African Army against Angola and the other frontline states is related to the Pretoria government's proposal to delay Namibia's independence process. He added that such acts are aimed at destabilizing the People's Republic of Angola and weakening the unconditional support it gives to SWAPO in its national liberation struggle.

Contacts between Angolan and U.S. Government officials are not in conflict with the guiding principles of Angola's foreign policy, Paulo Jorge stressed, adding that the People's Republic of Angola "wishes to establish relations with all countries in the world on the basis of the universal principles that govern international relations."

SADCC ENERGY MINISTERS END MEETING IN LUANDA

AB191757 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1727 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 19 Feb (ANGOP) -- After 3 days of discussions, the ministers of energy from southern African countries, members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), ended their meeting in Luanda yesterday afternoon.

The representatives of Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Malawi (Lesotho and Swaziland were absent), considered in Luanda the question of establishing a regional energy policy. They accepted, in principle, the setting up of an energy committee within the SADCC and charged Angola with preparing, together with the other states, a list of projects of regional interest to be submitted at the November meeting to be held in Lesotho with the countries financing SADCC projects.

The proposed establishment of the energy committee will have to be discussed by the SADCC Council of Ministers, which will meet in Luanda this May, according to the final communique issued by this meeting of energy ministers.

At the closing session, Angolan Minister of Energy and Petroleum Edro van Dunem said that the objectives of the SADCC, particularly economic independence from South Africa, requires "the identification of projects of a multilateral nature and their implementation with the active participation of the parties concerned."

Meanwhile, at a joint press conference of all the heads of delegations to this meeting, the Angolan minister indicated that the projects to be presented in November to the donors in the field of energy will probably include the extension of the Luanda refinery (which has a current processing capacity of 1 1/2 million tons of crude per year), to cover an extra 1 million tons per year and the question of interconnection of electric energy distribution networks. In addition, Botswana's charcoal possibilities will be studied with a view to formulating a regional project.

This was the first conference of SADCC minister of energy. The SADCC Council of Ministers, which will meet in Luanda in May, will be the first meeting to be held in Angola. The SADCC was established in April 1980 in Lusaka at a meeting of heads of state. The "Lusaka declaration" emerged from that meeting, entrusting some countries to coordinate various sectors of activity with a view to developing the region. So far, however, only the SADCC transport committee, coordinated by Mozambique, is functioning. When the energy committee is approved in May by the Council of Ministers, it will be the second operations organ of the SADCC.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEADS DELEGATION TO OAU MEETING

AB221229 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] An Angolan delegation led by the country's minister of external relations, Comrade Paolo Teixeira Jorge, yesterday left Luanda for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to attend the 38th session of the OAU Council of Ministers. The OAU session of the Council of Ministers is expected to discuss issues connected to budget and probably the problems of Sahara and Chad. The Angolan delegation also includes the directress of political affairs of the Ministry of External Relations, Comrade [name indistinct].

MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

GDR AGRICULTURE MINISTER -- The GDR deputy minister of agriculture arrived in Maputo this afternoon to take part in the proceedings of the Mozambique-GDR subcommission on agriculture. The chairman of the GDR consumer cooperatives also arrived in Maputo this afternoon for talks with Mozambique officials in the cooperative movement. It is expected that an agreement will be signed between delegations from the two countries' consumer cooperatives providing mainly for the training of Mozambique cadres. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 21 Feb 82 EA]

NAMIBIA

NUJOMA MEETS GDR'S HONECKER IN BERLIN 22 FEB

For an East Berlin ADN report on a meeting between Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO, and Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, held in East Berlin on 22 February, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 23 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA

MALAN CALLS FOR 'EXTENDED' MILITARY SERVICE

LD221716 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The South African defense minister, Gen Magnus Malan, says existing legislation and voluntary commitments have not achieved the correct balance to meet the latest challenge to South Africa's survival. Speaking at Alberton, near Johannesburg, General Malan said it was up to the legislators to introduce new measures that would extend military service and place a more equitable burden on all citizens. He said at this stage it would not be fair to extend the period of initial training, but rather to call on the citizen force, commandos and the reserve to make a more equitable contribution to the national defense effort.

ZIMBABWE

8,000 DEMONSTRATE AGAINST NKOMO, BACK MUGABE

CA201906 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The Department of Information has announced that about 8,000 people staged a demonstration in Gatooma in support of the government's decision to sack the ZAPU leader Mr Nkomo and some of his colleagues from the government. The demonstration that started in [name indistinct] township and spread into town where it is said to have blocked traffic for about 5 hours this morning. [sentence as received] At the Gatooma general hospital the demonstrators staged a mock funeral of the ZAPU leader. The demonstrators demanded that Mr Nkomo and his Central Committee must be detained.

BANANA SWEARS IN SIX NEW MINISTERS 19 FEB

CA221126 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] The president, Comrade Banana, has sworn in six new government ministers at a ceremony held in State House in Salisbury today. The ministers are: the minister of local government and housing, Comrade Chikowore; the minister of natural resources and tourism, Comrade Victoria Chitepo; the minister of lands, resettlement and rural development, Comrade Mahachi; the minister of water resources and development, Comrade Mumbengegwi; the minister of health, Comrade Munyaradzi; and the minister of home affairs, Comrade Ushewokunze. The ceremony was attended by other dignitaries including the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe.

ALLEGATIONS OF DETENTIONS WITHOUT TRIAL DENIED

CA221350 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 20 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has denied allegations that his government is resorting to measures of detaining people without trial. Speaking in the House of Assembly yesterday at the first of a planned series of regular meetings with representatives of Zimbabwe's white community, Comrade Mugabe said those detained will be brought before the courts of law. The prime minister said detentions are measures the government resorts to when forced.

Comrade Mugabe disclosed that the Cabinet reshuffle is not yet complete and the government is seeking to appoint more white [words indistinct]. He said while the government is not keen to see an all black Cabinet, the fact that the white community is represented in Parliament by the Republican Front makes it more difficult to choose white representatives for the Cabinet.

Comrade Mugabe said the matter will be taken care of in due course by appointments.

Asked what was delaying the opening of the Beira-Umtali pipeline, the prime minister said the negotiations with Mozambique have been completed. He said only a few technical details remain to be settled, adding that the pipeline would be open in a matter of weeks and not months.

ZAPU DISTRICT CHAIRMAN RESIGNS, JOINS ZANU-PF

CA221714 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 82

[Text] The chairman of ZAPU in the (Chaziya) District, Comrade Ngigi, has resigned from the party. He has joined ZANU-PF. Comrade Ngigi, who is also a member of the (Chaziya) District Council, announced his decision this afternoon in Salisbury. He said the revelations of the past 2 weeks undermined his faith in the ZAPU leadership. Comrade Ngigi was welcomed into NAZU-PF by the minister of manpower planning and development, Comrade Shava.

NKOMO WARNS: A SPARK COULD IGNITE FIGHTING

CA230916 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] Zimbabwe nationalist, Mr Joshua Nkomo, ousted from Zimbabwe coalition over accusations that he was plotting a coup, said yesterday he had told his followers not to [word indistinct] but said a spark could ignite fighting if cool heads did not prevail. He said danger still lies (?in the military camps) where young people are getting [word indistinct]. Zimbabwe's National Army is composed mainly of former ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army] freedom fighters sponsored during the Rhodesian independence war by Mr Nkomo's ZAPU Party and ex-ZANLA [Zimbabwe National Liberation Army] men of Prime Minister Mugabe's ZANU-PF. Referring to the post-war military integration program, involving former ZIPRA, ZANLA and Rhodesian forces he said physically they are not all together in the army but it is not all over yet. [as heard]

POLICE, ARMY LOCATE ARMS CACHE NEAR BULAWAYO

CA230646 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Feb 82

[Text] A joint operation mounted by the Zimbabwe National Army and the police in rechecking a suspicious piece of ground at Ascot farm near Bulawayo on Sunday found another arms cache hidden methodically. A police spokesman said another arms cache, not connected with the other caches found previously, was found at Filabusi area. The spokesman said there was no evidence to suggest that any of the former ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Liberation Army] arms found at Ascot, Gwaai, Silalabuhwa or Kenmaur had been used in armed robberies.